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Leaves from the Tree of Life.



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Ps. cxlix., 105

Leaves from the Tree of Life.

A VERSE OF SCRIPTURE

WITH

WORDS OF COMMENT OR ILLUSTRATION,

FOR

Every Day in the Year.

“Healing leaves
Blown from the tree of life.”

VAUGHAN.

PHILADELPHIA:
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PREFACE.

It was a custom among the Moravians for the elder brethren and sisters to visit daily every house in the settlement, saluting the inhabitants with a passage of Scripture called "the daily word,"—a word of warning or of promise, of comfort or of hope. It was the watch-word for the day; and the soldiers of Christ glowed with new ardour as it fell upon their ears. The theme for meditation came with the morning light, and the flame of devotion was enkindled by the divine message. The manna fell daily for this church in the wilderness.

Subsequently it became their custom to print this daily word in advance for the year. From this we have derived the idea of our daily textbooks. Elizabeth Fry, in the intervals of her public labours, compiled several of these, and found great pleasure in giving them to those whom she casually met in the journey of life, as tokens of her remembrance.

The present volume, in addition to the daily

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word of divine truth, gives words of comment from wise and good men, who have fashioned their lives by these heavenly teachings. Our faith is strengthened as the light comes to us from those radiant stars shining in God's moral firmament. We hear their voices murmuring in the dim corridors of the past and

“Descending slow, with something heavenly fraught,”

from the serene heights of immortality. Their mighty faith, their keen apprehension of solemn realities, their high aims and noble utterances, rebuke our faltering steps. Holy thoughts welling up from fountains of religious feeling bathe our care-worn brows with their refreshing waters. The electric chain of sympathy and feeling is struck; and we know that we are linked together in the bonds of a redeemed humanity.

There are leaves in tropical climes so ample that one can sit under their shadow, protected from the fierce beams of the golden day. Even so may we sit under the shadow of these leaves of the Tree of Life, sheltered from the broad glare of this garish world,—each leaf spreading and growing till it becomes a “pavilion” of refuge and delight.

Leaves from the Tree of Life.

JANUARY.

1. ALL my springs are in thee.

Psalm lxxxvii. 7.

Prayer for grace doth, as it were, set the mouth of the soul to the spring, draws from Jesus Christ, and is replenished out of his fulness, thirsting after it and drawing from it that way. LEIGHTON.

Life, like a fountain rich and free,
Springs from the presence of my Lord ;
And in thy light our souls shall see
The glories promised in thy word.

WATTS.

2. There is but a step between me
and death. 1 *Sam. xx. 3.*

Death comes, not according to the order of nature, but the decree of God. How many in the

flower of their youth and strength thought themselves at as great distance from death as the east is from the west, when there was not the space of an hour between them and death, between them and hell! The lamp suddenly expires by a blast of wind, when there is plenty of oil to feed it.

BATES.

O shadow'd form! O hidden face!
 Thou mak'st no haste approaching me,
 But day by day, with steady pace,
 Nearer I draw to thee.

3. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed; let not mine enemies triumph over me.

Psalm xxv. 2.

There is no public action which the world is not ready to scan; there is no action so private which the evil spirits are not witnesses of: I will endeavour so to live as knowing that I am ever in the eyes of mine enemies.

HALL.

Though hosts encamp around me,
 Firm in the fight I stand:
 What terror can confound me
 With God at my right hand?

MONTGOMERY.

4. O ye of little faith. *Matt. vi. 30.*

The secret of your weakness is your little faith and little prayer. The fountain is unsealed; but you only sip a few drops. The bread of life is before you; yet you only eat a few crumbs.* The treasury of heaven is open; but you only take a few pence.

RYLE.

Impart the faith that soars on high,
 Beyond this earthly strife,
 That holds sweet converse with the sky
 And lives Eternal Life!

JANE TAYLOR.

5. Lord, remember me!

Luke xxiii. 42.

Lord Astley, before he charged at the battle of Edgehill, made this short prayer:—"O Lord, thou knowest how busy I must be this day. If I forget thee, do not thou forget me."

And when these failing lips grow dumb,
 And mind and memory flee,
 When thou shalt in thy kingdom come,
 Jesus, remember me!

MONTGOMERY.

6. I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me. That which is far off and exceeding deep, who can find it out?

Eccl. vii. 23, 24.

All our most laudable endeavours after knowledge now are only the gathering up of some scattered fragments of what was once an entire fabric, and the recovery of some precious jewels which were lost out of sight and sunk in the shipwreck of human nature.

STILLINGFLEET.

These lower works, that swell thy praise
High as our thoughts can tower,
Are but a portion of thy ways,—
The hiding of thy power.

MONTGOMERY.

7. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.

Phil. ii. 9.

This is the name which we should engrave on our hearts, and write upon our foreheads, and pronounce with our most harmonious accents, and rest

our faith upon, and place our hopes in, and love with the overflowings of charity and joy and adoration.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Thy mighty name salvation is,
 And keeps my happy soul above:
 Comfort it brings, and power, and peace,
 And joy, and everlasting love.
 To me with thy great name are given
 Pardon and holiness and heaven.

CHARLES WESLEY.

8. And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.

2 Chron. xxxi. 21.

I have a work to do daily, with a will to do it and a prayer upon it; and let that work be God's.

ADAM.

Fill thy odorous lamp with deeds of light
 And hope that reaps not shame.

MILTON.

9. While I live will I praise the
 Lord : I will sing praises unto
 my God while I have any
 being. *Psalm cxlvi. 2.*

I would not exchange the little, faint efforts I can
 make towards praising God for all worldly comforts.

ADAM.

Let thy grace, my soul's chief treasure,
 Love's pure flame within me raise ;
 And, since words can never measure,
 Let my life show forth thy praise.

KEY.

10. For me to live is Christ, to die
 is gain. *Philippians i. 21.*

Happiness absolutely consists in such a state of
 mind that death shall be welcome and life still
 shall be sweet ; that is, in being equally prepared to
 improve life or to resign it. FOSTER.

He is the happy man whose life e'en now
 Shows somewhat of that happier life to come,
 Content indeed to sojourn while he must
 Below the skies, but having there his home.

COWPER.

11. Who hath bewitched you, that
ye should not obey the truth?

Galatians iii. 1.

How strange and mortifying, that progress in personal religion is so difficult! that it should not be the natural, earnest, and even impetuous, tendency of an immortal spirit summoned to the prosecution of immortal interests!

FOSTER.

Yet man, fool man! here buries all his thoughts;
Inters celestial hopes without one sigh;
Prisoner of hope, and, pent beneath the moon,
Here pinions all his wishes; wing'd by Heaven
To fly at infinite and reach it there,
When seraphs gather immortality
On life's fair tree, fast by the throne of God.

YOUNG.

12. Strangers and pilgrims on the
earth.

Hebrews xi. 13.

Here thou art but a stranger travelling to thy country where the glories of a kingdom are prepared for thee: it is therefore a huge folly to be much afflicted because thou hast a less convenient inn to lodge in by the way.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Strangers and pilgrims here below,
 This earth, we know, is not our place,
 But hasten through the vale of woe,
 And, restless to behold thy face,
 Swift to our heavenly country move,
 Our everlasting home above.

CHARLES WESLEY.

13. It is good for me that I have
 been afflicted; that I might
 learn thy statutes.

Psalm cxix. 71.

There is no season so proper for holy counsel and sowing the good seed as when the heart is softened by sorrow and mellowed by affliction.

LADY LETICE FALKLAND.

How wretched is the man that never mourn'd!
 I dive for precious pearls in sorrow's stream.

YOUNG.

14. Thou fool, this night thy soul
 shall be required of thee.

Luke xii. 20.

This sentence is pronounced in heaven against thousands that are now alive, conversant in the vanities and business of the world, eating and drink-

ing, playing and trading, and all unconcerned as to dying, yet shall breathe their last before to-morrow and their unwilling souls be rent from the embrace of their bodies.

BATES.

Turn, mortal, turn: thy danger know:
 Where'er thy foot can tread,
 The earth rings hollow from below
 And warns thee by her dead.

HEBER.

15. There is joy in the presence of
 the angels of God over one
 sinner that repenteth.

Luke xv. 10.

There is no blessed soul goes to heaven but he makes a general joy in all the mansions where the saints do dwell and in all the chapels where the angels sing; and the joys of religion are not univocal, but productive of rare and accidental and preternatural pleasures; for the music of holy hymns delights the ear, and refreshes the spirit, and makes the very bones of the saint to rejoice.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Come, in your robes of light,
 Ye seraphs, from above,
 And ye, with heaven all bright,
 Soft Cherubim of love.

Praise Him whose mighty love
Shared even death for men,
And the bright gates above
Threw wide for us again!

16. And it came to pass that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried.

Luke xvi. 22.

While pride gathers in the heart, the angel is ever writing in the book, and wrath is ever mantling in the cup. Complain not in the season of woe that you are parched with thirst; ask not for water as Dives asked: you have a warning which he never had. There stand the ever-memorable words of the text, which break down the stateliness of man and dissipate the pageantry of the earth: thus it is that the few words of a God can make the purple of the world appear less beautiful than the mean garments of a beggar.

My days are shorter than a span;
A little point my life appears:
How frail at best is dying man!
How vain are all his hopes and fears!

STEELE.

17. The father to the children shall
make known thy truth.

Isaiah xxxviii. 19.

Holy parents never eat their meal of blessing alone, but they make the room shine like the fire of a holy sacrifice; and a father's or a mother's piety makes all the house festival and full of joy from generation to generation. JEREMY TAYLOR.

Thus chasten'd, cleansed, entirely thine,
A flock by Jesus led,
The sun of holiness shall shine
In glory on our head.

HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

18. Lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep
the sleep of death.

Psalm xiii. 3.

Like the bird of which travellers tell, that fans its victims with its pinions until their sleep be sound, while it draws the life-blood from their body, so does the world lull into slumber the poor deceived soul, and keep it thus in an unbroken calm even to the solemn moment when it awakes in eternity.

HENRY BLUNT.

Teach me thy love to know,—
 That this new light which now I see
 May both the work and workman show :
 Then by a sunbeam I will climb to thee.

GEORGE HERBERT.

19. A good man shall be satisfied
 from himself. *Prov. xiv. 14.*

And conscience undoubtedly is the great repository and magazine of all those pleasures that can afford any solid refreshment to the soul. For when this is calm and serene and absolving, then properly a man enjoys all things and—what is more—himself. But it is only a pious life led exactly by the rules of a severe religion that can authorize a man's conscience to speak comfortably to him. It is this that must word the sentence before the conscience can pronounce it; and then it will do it with majesty and authority: it will not whisper, but proclaim, a jubilee to the mind; it will not drop, but pour in, oil upon the wounded heart. SOUTH.

Holiness on the head ;
 Light and perfections on the breast ;
 Harmonious bells below, raising the dead,
 To lead them unto life and rest ;—
 Thus are true Aarons drest.

HERBERT.

20. Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. *John xi. 9.*

Every hour comes to us charged with duty, and the moment it is past returns to heaven to register itself now spent. My hours how trifled, sauntered, dozed, sensualized, sinned, away! **ADAM.**

Are there not in the labourer's day
Twelve hours, in which he safely may
His calling's work pursue?
Though sin and Satan still are near,
Nor sin nor Satan can I fear
With Jesus in my view.

JOHN WESLEY.

21. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matt. xi. 28.

If it were given us at this hour to behold in vision the multitudes in every age who have drank of the well of blessings which is continually

springing from this inestimable declaration,—if our Bibles could retain the pictured shadows of those hosts of sad and sorrowing faces that in the long succession of centuries and the wide variety of Christianized countries have bowed over the page that speaks these words of refreshment, and risen renewed in hope and happiness,—truly we might have wherewith to silence the scoffer, a cloud of witnesses to testify that the eye of the Lord is upon them,—upon them that hope in his mercy.

ARCHER BUTLER.

With tearful eyes I look around ;
 Life seems a dark and stormy sea :
 Yet midst the gloom I hear a sound,
 A heavenly whisper, "Come to me."

It tells me of a place of rest ;
 It tells me where my soul may flee ;
 Ah! to the weary, faint, oppress'd,
 How sweet the bidding, "Come to me"!

ANON.

22. We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

2 Cor. v. 8.

I can now contemplate clearly the grand scene to which I am going: it appears to my mind very magnificent and very awful: there is no cloud in the prospect.

MACLAINE.

There are crowns and thrones of glory ;
 There the living waters glide ;
 There the just in shining raiment
 Standing by Immanuel's side.

EDMESTON.

23. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Luke xxi. 33.

Words convey the mental treasures of one period to the generations that follow; and, laden with this their precious freight, they sail safely across gulfs of time in which empires have suffered shipwreck and the languages of common life have sunk into oblivion.

Yet still the Lord, the Saviour, reigns,
 When nature is destroy'd
 And no created thing remains
 Throughout the flaming void.

CHARLES WESLEY.

24. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee. *Isaiah xxvi. 3.*

Thankful for Christ, thankful for every thing, and always in a serene, quiet state of mind. ADAM.

Oh, why should I have peace ?

Why, but for that unchanged, undying love
Which would not, could not cease
Until it made me heir of joys above ?

ANON.

25. For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Heb. xi. 10.

Since we stay not here, being people but of a day's abode, and our age like that of a fly and contemporary with a gourd, we must look somewhere else for an abiding city, a place in another country to fix our house in, whose walls and foundation is God, where we must find rest, or else be restless forever.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

We see our distant home,
 Though clouds rise oft between :
 Faith views the radiant dome,
 And a lustre flashes keen
 From the new Jerusalem.

26. Thou art my hiding-place ; thou shalt preserve me from trouble ; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. *Psalm xxxii. 7.*

Unless you can distrust all the influences of history and all the direct testimony of express language, there is a happiness attainable by the service of Christ which it would be absolute insanity to ascribe to any earthly pursuit. Are all the records of devotional literature a lie, or is the promise of the Lord incapable of fulfilment? ARCHER BUTLER.

Thou hidden Source of calm repose,
 Thou all-sufficient Love divine,
 My help and refuge from my foes,
 Secure I am while thou art mine ;
 And lo ! from sin and grief and shame
 I hide me, Jesus, in thy name.

CHARLES WESLEY.

27. If this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought : but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it. *Acts v. 38, 39.*

The gospel is a powerful engine for raising the fallen nature of man ; but then God must have the working of it. ADAM.

- Except the Lord conduct the plan,
The best-concerted schemes are vain
And never can succeed ;
We spend our wretched strength for nought :
But if our works in thee be wrought,
They shall be blest indeed.

ANON.

28. God is love ; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. *1 John iv. 16.*

The Christian draws nigh to God as a reconciled father in the faith of Christ,—presses on to a complete victory over sin, and the glory of the inward man in a pure and perfect heart. God to-day,—and what to-morrow ? God. ADAM.

God only knows the love of God:
 Oh that it now were shed abroad
 In this poor, stony heart!
 For love I sigh; for love I pine;
 This only portion, Lord, be mine,
 Be mine this better part.

29. A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one's birth. *Eccl. vii. 1.*

The acts of a holy religion and a peaceable conscience make us live even beyond our funerals, embalmed in the spices and odours of a good name, and entombed in the grave of the holy Jesus, where we shall be dressed for a blessed resurrection to the state of angels and beatified spirits.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

When Faith and Love, which parted from thee never,
 Had ripen'd thy just soul to dwell with God,
 Meekly thou didst resign this earthly load
 Of death call'd life, which us from life doth sever.
 Thy works and alms, and all thy good endeavour,
 Stay'd not behind, nor in the grave were trod,
 But, as Faith pointed with her golden rod,
 Follow'd thee up to joy and bliss forever.

30. I count all things but loss for
the excellency of the know-
ledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.

Phil. iii. 8.

The very singleness of the object of his hope has
a power to elevate the Christian above the petty
concerns of daily life. ARCHER BUTLER.

Then let us sit beneath the cross
And gladly catch the healing stream,
All things for him account but loss
And give up all our hearts to him,—
Of nothing think or speak beside :
My Lord, my Love, is crucified.

CHARLES WESLEY.

31. The will of the Lord be done.

Acts xxi. 14.

The will of God is my pole-star ; and, with my eye
constantly upon it, I shall be carried safely through
all storms and tempests. ADAM.

My God, my Father, while I stray
Far from my home on life's rough way,
Oh, teach me from my heart to say,
"Thy will, my God, be done!"

FEBRUARY.

1. AND herein do I exercise myself
to have a conscience void of
offence toward God and toward
men. *Acts xxiv. 16.*

A tender conscience is an inestimable blessing,
that is not only quick to discern what is evil, but
instantly to shun it, as the eyelid closes itself against
a mote. **THOMAS ADAM.**

Quick as the apple of an eye,
O God, my conscience make :
Awake my soul when sin is nigh,
And keep it still awake.

2. He, being dead, yet speaketh.
Heb. ii. 4.

I am convinced how great a deed he does who
makes one pious thought alive and active in the
human soul; since I know how a single passage in
a beautiful book or in a religious conversation has

often had an influence on me for many days together; and I shall to all eternity thank him to whom I am indebted for the smallest benefit of this sort.

From the eternal shadow rounding
 All our sun and starlight here,
 Voices of our lost ones sounding
 Bid us be of heart and cheer,—
 Though the silence, down the spaces, falling on the
 inward ear.

3. I will bring my people again
 from the depths of the sea.

Psalm lxxviii. 22.

The victories over Israel's enemies, with which God blessed David's forces, are but types of Christ's victory over death and the grave, for himself and for all believers, and of the destruction of his and the church's enemies.

M. HENRY.

Though nature's strength decay,
 And earth and hell withstand,
 To Canaan's bounds I urge my way,
 At his command:
 The watery deep I pass,
 With Jesus in my view,
 And through the howling wilderness
 My way pursue.

The goodly land I see,
 With peace and plenty blest ;
 A land of sacred liberty
 And endless rest.

OLIVERS.

4. Peace I leave with you, my peace
 I give unto you : not as the
 world giveth, give I unto you.

John xiv. 27.

When we once come to know and believe in good earnest that there is a peace with God to be had, and that it is the very thing we want, it will make us cool in all other pursuits. THOMAS ADAM.

Why, then, am I, my God,
 Permitted thus the paths of peace to tread,—
 Peace purchased by the blood
 Of Him who had not where to lay his head ?

5. We have an advocate with the
 Father, Jesus Christ the right-
 eous. 1 *John* ii. 1.

I put my prayers into Christ's hands ; and what may I not expect from them, when I have such an advocate ? ADAM.

My soul, with cheerful eye,
 See where thy Saviour stands,—
 The glorious Advocate on high,—
 With incense in his hands.

STEELE.

6. Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

2 Cor. i. 4.

And what greater measure can we have than that we should bring joy to our brother, who, with his dreary eyes, looks to heaven and round about and cannot find so much rest as to lay his eyelids close together,—than that thy tongue should be tuned with heavenly accents, and make the weary soul to listen for light and ease, and when he perceives that there is such a thing in the world, and in the order of things, as comfort and joy, to begin to break out from the prison of his sorrows and by little and little melt into showers and refreshment? This is glory to thy voice and employment fit for the brightest angel.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Speak low to me, my Saviour,—low and sweet
 From out the hallelujahs, sweet and low ;
 Lest I should fear and fall, and miss thee so
 Who art not miss'd by any that entreat.

MRS. BROWNING.

7. For the living know that they shall die ; but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward ; for the memory of them is forgotten.

Eccles. ix. 5.

This one omnipotent mighty idea, which no sophistry can obscure and no audacity disarm, is all abroad among the habitations of men; denouncing the world as a vain illusion and pleading for the rights and interests of eternity.

OLIN.

Beneath our feet and o'er our head
 Is equal warning given :
 Beneath us lie the countless dead,
 Above us is the heaven.

HEBER.

8. I will render praises unto thee,
 for thou hast delivered my
 soul from death.

Psalms lvi. 12, 13.

What makes a happy life? Knowing that we
can smile on death. ADAM.

No terror has death or the grave
To those who believe in the Lord,—
Who know the Redeemer can save,
And lean on the faith of his word.

GEORGE P. MORRIS.

9. He hath put a new song in my
mouth, even praise unto our
God. *Psalm xl. 3.*

Yes, you must accustom yourselves to that song:
you must mould and warble it here on earth, that
you may be perfect in it when you come to join
with saints and angels in their eternal hallelujahs.

HOPKINS.

My Joy, my Life, my Crown!
My heart was meaning all the day,
Somewhat it fain would say:
And still it runneth, singing up and down
These few sweet words:—my Joy, my Life, my Crown!

HERBERT.

10. The just man walketh in his in-
tegrity: his children are bless-
ed after him. *Prov. xx. 7.*

Joy, peace, courage and divine charity have power to propagate themselves. They act upon the young more especially by sympathy and contagion. They diffuse themselves spontaneously through the family circle, transforming and assimilating gentle natures and tender hearts by the divine grace of which they are redolent. OLIN.

The power to bless my house
Belongs to God alone,
Yet, rendering him my constant vows,
He sends his blessings down.

CHARLES WESLEY.

11. If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1 *Thess.* iv. 14.

These that were, in their lower estate here, temples of the Holy Ghost, shall be filled with that fulness of joy that shall run over from the soul unto them: they shall be conformed to the happy and glorious souls to which they shall be united, yea, to the glorious body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

LEIGHTON.

'Tis sweet, as year by year we lose
 Friends out of sight, in faith to muse
 How grows in Paradise our store.

KEBLE.

12. The light of the body is the
 eye: if therefore thine eye be
 single, thy whole body shall
 be full of light. *Matt. vi. 22.*

Now for a single eye and a pure heart! Now
 there seems to be an opening to the happy time of
 forsaking all! It is only a glimpse; but, if I keep
 my attention fixed upon it, it will bring me full into
 the light.

ADAM.

Jesus, my single eye
 Be fix'd on thee alone,
 Thy name be praised on earth, on high,
 Thy will by all be done!

13. For our conversation is in hea-
 ven; from whence also we
 look for the Saviour, the Lord
 Jesus Christ. *Phil. iii. 20.*

Faith converses with the angels and antedates the hymns of glory: every man that hath this grace is as certain that there are glories for him, if he perseveres in duty, as if he had heard and sung the thanksgiving-song for the blessed sentence of doomsday.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Faith makes me any thing or all
That I believe is in the sacred story ;
And when sin placeth me in Adam's fall,
Faith sets me higher in his glory.

HERBERT.

14. Here have we no continuing city; but we seek one to come.

Heb. xiii. 14.

We are pilgrims to a dwelling-place of blessedness; and the light that streams through its open portals ought to suffuse us as we approach them. An anticipated beatitude, a sanctity that even now breathes of Paradise, a grace which is already tinged with the richer hues of glory,—these should mark the Christian disciple, and these as he advances in years should brighten and deepen upon and around him, until the distinction of earth and heaven is almost lost, and the spirit, in its placid and unearthly repose, is gone as it were before the body and at rest already with its God.

ARCHER BUTLER.

We are on our journey home,
 Where Christ our Lord is gone;
 We will meet around his throne
 When he makes his people one
 In the new Jerusalem.

15. For it is not a vain thing for
 you; because it is your life.

Deut. xxxii. 47.

Let this be ever uppermost in my thoughts and the great rule of my conversing with all,—that we are immortal beings, in the first stage of our existence, full of mistakes, or unconcerned about the matter and yet dreadfully concerned in the issue.

ADAM.

Heaven calls; and can I yet delay?
 Can aught on earth engage my stay?
 Ah, wretched, lingering heart!
 Come, Lord, with strength and life and light,
 Assist and guide my upward flight
 And bid the world depart.

MRS. STEELE.

16. Looking for that blessed hope
 and the glorious appearing of
 the great God and our Saviour
 Jesus Christ.

Titus ii. 13.

He who seldom thinks of heaven is not likely to get thither,—as the only way to hit the mark is to keep the eye fixed upon it. HORNE.

Rise, happy morn! rise, holy morn!
 Draw forth the cheerful day from night;
 O Father, touch the east, and light
 The light that shone when Hope was born!
TENNYSON.

17. Great peace have they which love thy law; and nothing shall offend them. *Psalm cxix.* 165.

Were there nothing else to commend religion to the minds of men besides that tranquillity and calmness of spirit, that serene and peaceable temper, which follow a good conscience wherever it dwells, it were enough to make men welcome that guest which brings such good entertainment with it.

STILLINGFLEET.

Lord, how secure and blest are they
 Who feel the joys of pardon'd sin!
 Should storms of wrath shake earth and sea,
 Their minds have heaven and peace within.
WATTS.

18. My days are like a shadow that declineth. *Psalm cii.* 11.

I beseech thee, ponder what is life and what is death. Life is the passing of a shadow, short, troublesome and dangerous,—a place which God hath given us in time for the desiring of eternity.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Such are thy days,—so shall they pass away,—
As flowers that bloom at morn, at eve decay;
But then there comes a life that knows no end.

FRANCIS S. KEY.

19. Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

John xi. 26.

We should conceive of time and eternity as different periods of the same state or different degrees of the same kind of life, requiring the same disposition, but always improving, and not as separated by a great gulf and quite different from each other in their interests, pleasures, and employments. This would be running time into eternity and bringing eternity down to time; we should then think and act like eternal beings and live here as we are to do in heaven. Let the whole world, therefore, be divided into two great sects,—viz.: *Timists* and *Eternalists*.

ADAM.

That state
Of pure, imperishable blessedness
Which reason promises and Holy Writ
Insures to all believers.

WORDSWORTH.

20. He forgetteth not the cry of the
humble. *Psalm ix. 12.*

No true prayer is lost, though we may have forgotten it. ADAM.

Blest are the humble souls that see
Their emptiness and poverty :
Treasures of grace to them are given,
And crowns of joy laid up in heaven.

WATTS.

21. Strengthen ye the weak hands,
and confirm the feeble knees.
Say to them that are of a
fearful heart, Be strong, fear
not. *Isaiah xxxv. 3, 4.*

It is a fearful thing to see a man despairing. Therefore in proportion to this I may tell the excellency of the employment and the duty of that charity which bears the dying and languishing soul from

the fringes of hell to the seat of the brightest stars,
 where God's face shines and reflects comforts for
 ever and ever. JEREMY TAYLOR.

Thou seest our weakness, Lord;
 Our hearts are known to thee:
 Oh, lift thou up the sinking head;
 Confirm the feeble knee.

22. The law of his God is in his
 heart; none of his steps shall
 slide. *Psalm xxxvii. 31.*

A surrender of the life to the guidance of duty brings into the mind a power far more valuable than would be the acquisition of new faculties: it quadruples the efficiency of the old. It simplifies all the movements of life. It cuts short a thousand struggles with temptation and passion. It is a thread of gold in the hands of inexperienced youth and care-worn manhood, to conduct the willing and obedient through the dark, pathless labyrinth of this world.

The upright shall possess the land;
 His portion shall for ages stand;
 His mouth with wisdom is supplied;
 His tongue by rules of judgment moves;
 His heart the law of God approves:
 Therefore his footsteps never slide.

23. He that spared not his own Son,
but delivered him up for us
all, how shall he not with him
also freely give us all things?

Rom. viii. 32.

He who has already done so much for me will
leave nothing undone. ADAM.

Fear not that he will e'er forsake
Or leave his work undone :
He's faithful to his promises
And faithful to his Son.

BEDDOME.

24. I will strengthen them in the
Lord; and they shall walk up
and down in his name, saith
the Lord. *Zech. x. 12.*

The choicest spirits of our race—whether in the
public or retired walks of life, whether standing
forth before the world and battling with its vices
and errors, or shedding noiselessly a hallowed in-
fluence in the domestic circle—have been men who
looked up to God for the high life of the soul and
for success to their benignant labours. PEARSON.

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go
 My daily labours to pursue,—
 Thee, only thee, resolved to know
 In all I think, or speak, or do.

25. Light is sown for the righteous,
 and gladness for the upright
 in heart. *Psalm xcvi. 11.*

Though they often appear clods of earth, ploughed up, harrowed and broken with affliction, yet is there that blessed seed cast into them which will certainly sprout up to immortality and eternal life, as all the beauties of a flower lie couched in a small, unsightly seed.

HOPKINS.

Palms of glory, raiment bright,
 Crowns that never fade away,
 Gird and deck the saints in light,—
 Priests and kings and conquerors they.

MONTGOMERY.

26. What! could ye not watch with
 me one hour? *Matt. xxvi. 40.*

Two things are matter of daily astonishment to me,—the readiness of Christ to come from heaven to earth for me, and my backwardness to rise from earth to heaven with him.

PEARCE.

Go watch and pray: thou canst not tell
How near thine hour may be;
Thou canst not know how soon the bell
May toll its notes for thee.
Death's countless snares beset thy way:
Frail child of dust! go watch and pray.

27. In whom, though now ye see
him not, yet believing ye re-
joice with joy unspeakable
and full of glory. 1 *Peter* i. 8.

Those that are diligent in working for salvation many times have high spring-tides of joy,—joy that is unspeakable and glorious, that rusheth in upon the soul and ravisheth it with a sweet and potent delight, while it is in ways of obedience.

HOPKINS.

Oh, 'tis delight without alloy,
Jesus, to hear thy name!
My spirit leaps with inward joy:
I feel the sacred flame.

WATTS.

28. Go out into the highways and
hedges. *Luke* xiv. 23.

“Pure religion and undefiled,” overleaping the narrow boundaries of circle and sect, goes forth in quest of the objects of charity in the highways and hedges. It looks after the greatest sufferers. It seeks the lost sheep in the wilderness far away. No pass-word is demanded at the door of its heart.

A poor man served by thee shall make thee rich ;
 An old man help'd by thee shall make thee strong :
 Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense
 Of service which thou renderest.

MRS. BROWNING.

Leap-Year.—29. As he thinketh in
 his heart, so is he.

Prov. xxiii. 7.

Our condition in the scale both of moral and intellectual being is in a great measure determined by the control which we have acquired over the succession of our thoughts, and by the subjects on which they are habitually exercised.

ABERCROMBIE.

This warfare is within. There, unfatigued,
 This fervent spirit labours. There he fights
 And there obtains fresh triumphs o'er himself,
 And never-withering wreaths, compared with which
 The laurels that a Cæsar reaps are weeds.

COWPER.

MARCH.

1. I AM doing a great work, so that
I cannot come down: why
should the work cease whilst
I leave it and come down to
you? *Nehemiah vi. 3.*

No! stand off, for I am working for eternity,—an eternity that is but a few days hence,—a boundless, a bottomless, an endless eternity, into which I know not how soon I may enter; and woe to me, yea, a thousand woes to me, that ever I was born, if my great work be not done before the days of eternity come upon me!

HOPKINS.

As by the light of opening day
The stars are all conceal'd,
So earthly pleasures fade away
When Jesus is reveal'd;
Creatures no more divide my choice,
I bid them all depart,
His name, his love, his gracious voice,
Have fix'd my roving heart.

NEWTON.

2. The Lord thy God in the midst
of thee is mighty: he will save,
he will rejoice over thee with
joy; he will rest in his love,
he will joy over thee with
singing. *Zeph. iii. 17.*

If, in the happy phrase of Butler, our post-
humous life, instead of being altogether a beginning
anew, be rather *a going on*, what scenes of loveli-
ness and irradiations of faith may unveil and beam
upon the soul when the Divine Giver tenderly
takes it back, and lays his hand on that his own
instrument of music, and stills the jar and the dis-
cord of earth, and brings every thought and feeling
and desire into tune, and draws out all the powers,
and opens all the stops, and wakes the harmonies so
long sleeping!

ROBERT WILMOTT.

High throned on heaven's eternal hill,
In number, weight and measure still
Thou sweetly orderest all that is;
And yet thou deign'st to come to me
And guide my steps, that I, with thee
Enthroned, may reign in endless bliss.

JOHN WESLEY.

3. Ye shall be baptized with the
Holy Ghost. *Acts xi. 16.*

A lively sense of God's mercy in Christ and love in the heart,—is not this the Spirit's baptism of fire? And what have I to do in the world but to get and keep it? ADAM.

O Spirit of the living God,
In all thy plenitude of grace,
Where'er the foot of man hath trod,
Descend on our apostate race.

MONTGOMERY.

4. Faith is the substance of things
hoped for, the evidence of
things not seen. *Heb. xi. 1.*

Faith is a certain image of eternity: all things are present to it: things past and things to come are all so before the eyes of faith that he in whose eye that candle is enkindled beholds heaven as present, and sees how blessed a thing it is to die in God's favour and to be chimed to our grave with the music of a good conscience.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Faith can raise earth to heaven, or draw down
 Heaven to earth; make both extremes to meet,—
 Felicity and misery; can crown
 Reproach with honour; season sour with sweet.
 Nothing's impossible to faith: a man
 May do all things that he believes he can.

GEORGE HERBERT.

5. I press toward the mark for the
 prize of the high calling of
 God in Christ Jesus.

Phil. iii. 14.

Be assured that the white robes of the blessed are
 not the robes of indolence, but the mantles and
 decorations of conquest.

ARCHER BUTLER.

Unwearied may I this pursue,
 Dauntless to the high prize aspire,
 Hourly within my soul renew
 This holy flame, this heavenly fire,
 And day and night be all my care
 To guard the sacred treasure there!

CHARLES WESLEY.

6. Lay up^t for yourselves treasures
 in heaven, where neither moth
 nor rust doth corrupt, and

where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matt. vi. 20, 21.

I had rather enter into the meaning of this saying, and be in full possession of the spirit of it, than be lord of the universe.

ADAM.

That precious wealth shall be their dower
Which cannot know decay,—
Which moth or rust shall ne'er devour
Or spoiler take away.

LYTE.

7. Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God.

Psalm cxliii. 10.

We make Christ but a titular prince if we call him king and do not his will.

MATTHEW HENRY.

Peace, troubled soul, thou need'st not fear:
Thy great Provider still is near;
Who fed thee last will feed thee still;
Be calm, and sink into his will.

8. Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. *Heb. xii. 1.*

What we do is transacted on a stage of which all in the universe are spectators. What we say is transmitted in echoes that will never cease. What we are is influencing and acting on the rest of mankind. Neutral we cannot be. Living, we act, and dead, we speak; and the whole universe is the mighty company, forever looking, forever listening, and all nature the tablets, forever recording the words, the deeds, the thoughts, the passions, of mankind. CUMMING.

Press on; the loved behold thee now:
Press on; they'll welcome thee above:
Press on, until upon thy brow
Is placed the glorious crown of love.

9. And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Mark iv. 39.

When without are fightings and within are fears,
Christ can give peace. If he say, "Peace, be still,"
there is a great calm.

HENRY.

Commit thou all thy griefs
And ways into his hands,
To his sure trust and tender care,
Who earth and heaven commands ;
Who points the clouds their course,
Whom winds and seas obey :
He shall direct thy wandering feet,
He shall prepare thy way.

J. WESLEY.

10. This year thou shalt die.

Jer. xxviii. 16.

Conscience is a clock which in one man strikes aloud and gives warning; in another the hands point silently to the figures, but strike not: meantime hours pass away, and death hastens, and after death comes judgment.

BISHOP TAYLOR.

The year rolls round, and steals away
 The breath that first it gave:
 Whate'er we do, where'er we be,
 We're travelling to the grave.

WATTS.

11. Choose you this day whom ye
 will serve. *Joshua xxiv. 15.*

A partial, half religion is a state of terrible
 anxiety. ADAM.

I choose the path of heavenly truth,
 And glory in my choice:
 Not all the riches of the earth
 Could make me so rejoice.

WATTS.

12. For ye have need of patience,
 that after ye have done the
 will of God ye might receive
 the promise. *Heb. x. 36.*

On earth prayer, improvement, waiting; in heaven,
 praise, perfection, happiness. ADAM.

Through waves and clouds and storms
 He gently clears thy way:
 Wait thou his time; so shall this night
 Soon end in joyous day.

J. WESLEY.

13. They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them. *Job xxi. 26.*

A man may read a sermon the best and most passionate that ever man preached, if he shall but enter into the sepulchres of kings. There is an acre sown with royal seeds, the copy of the greatest change,—from rich to naked, from ceiled roofs to arched coffins, from living like gods to die like men.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

There, when the turmoil is no more
And all our powers decay,
Our cold remains in solitude
Shall sleep the years away.

HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

14. Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord. *Psalms xxvii. 14.*

In the lovely relationship of prayer the highest and the lowest may be invisibly united.

ARCHER BUTLER.

O thou who mournest on thy way,
 With longings for the close of day!
 He walks with thee, that Saviour kind,
 And gently whispers, "Be resign'd."
 Bear up, bear on: the end shall tell
 The dear Lord ordereth all things well.

15. My flesh and my heart faileth,
 but God is the strength of my
 heart, and my portion forever.

Psalm lxxiii. 26.

With the single exclamation, "My God! my God!"
 the spirit of Gustavus Adolphus passed from the
 storm of battle into the world of rest.

What though my flesh and heart decay?
 Thee shall I love in endless day.

16. Examine yourselves, whether ye
 be in the faith; prove your
 own selves. *2 Cor. xiii. 5.*

Do I bring myself to the touchstone of truth, or
 make myself the touchstone? ADAM.

What image does my spirit bear?
 Is Jesus form'd and living there?

DAVIES.

17. The staff of bread. *Psalm cv. 16.*

We are to ask for and to use these earthly enjoyments only as travellers, that make use of a staff for their help and support whilst they are in their passage home. And we are hereby also taught to crave no more than will suffice for our convenient supplies: otherwise we make our staff our burden and our support itself a load and pressure.

HOPKINS.

Father, supply my every need;
Sustain the life thyself hast given:
Oh, grant the never-failing bread,
The manna that comes down from heaven.

18. Bless them which persecute
you; bless, and curse not.

Rom. xii. 14.

My lord, more I have not to say, but that like as the blessed apostle St. Paul was present and consented to the death of St. Stephen and kept the clothes of them that stoned him, and yet they be both twain compeers and holy saints in heaven and shall continue there friends together forever; so I verily trust and heartily pray that though your lordships have on earth been my judges to my con-

demnation, we may yet hereafter meet in heaven to our everlasting salvation.

Conclusion of SIR THOMAS MORE'S address to his judges after sentence of death passed upon him.

Whene'er the angry passions rise,
And tempt our thoughts and tongues to strife,
To Jesus let us lift our eyes,
Bright pattern of the Christian life.

19. That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. *Phil. iii. 10.*

One sensible experimental proof of Christ's power and presence in time of conflict, of danger or temptation, will hardly ever be forgotten, and binds the soul to him in trust and affiance more than a thousand arguments.

ADAM.

Counting gain and glory loss,
May I tread the path he trod,
Die with Jesus on the cross,
Rise with him to live with God!

20. I would not live alway.

Job vii. 16.

This is a place of sorrows and tears, of great evils and a constant calamity: let us remove from hence, at least in affections and preparation of mind.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

I would not live alway, away from my God,
 Away from yon heaven, that blissful abode,—
 Where the rivers of pleasure flow o'er the bright plains
 And the noontide of glory eternally reigns.

MUHLENBERG.

21. Tarry ye here, and watch with
 me. *Matt. xxvi. 38.*

Surely he was destitute indeed of help when he entreated them who he knew would be but miserable comforters. But he would hereby teach us the benefit of the communion of saints.

HENRY.

O Thou who in the garden's shade
 Didst wake thy weary ones again,
 Who slumber'd at that fearful hour,
 Forgetful of thy pain,—
 Bend o'er us now, as over them,
 And set our sleep-bound spirits free,
 Nor leave us slumbering in the watch
 Our souls should keep with thee.

WHITTIER.

22. Strong in faith. *Rom. iv. 20.*

Faith can do more than remove mountains: it can still a clamorous conscience, make a bad conscience good, soften a hard heart, bend a stubborn will, and bring God and man together. ADAM.

There faith lifts up her cheerful eye,
 To brighter prospects given,
 And views the tempest passing by,
 The evening shadows quickly fly,
 And all serene in heaven.

TAPPAN.

23. Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. *2 Cor. v. 17.*

The appearance of every thing was altered: there seemed to be as it were a calm, sweet cast or appearance of divine glory in almost every thing. I often used to sit and view the moon for a long time, and in the day spent much time in viewing the clouds and sky, to behold the sweet glory of God in these things,—in the mean time singing forth, with a low voice, my contemplations of the Creator and Redeemer. EDWARDS.

Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss ;
 Exalted manna ; gladness of the best ;
 Heaven in ordinary ; man well drest ;
 The milky way ; the bird of paradise ;
 Church-bells beyond the stars heard ; the soul's blood ;
 The land of spices ; something understood.

HERBERT.

24. We spend our years as a tale
 that is told. *Psalm xc. 9.*

Night is hastening and spreading its wings over us. We burn away our precious days and miserably waste our light and our life. We exhaust our strength and lavish out our affections upon toys and fond nothings ; and that life of our's which the Psalmist calls a " tale " for its shortness, we make a tale for its vanity.

BISHOP HOPKINS.

And is it in the flight of threescore years
 To push eternity from human thought
 And smother souls immortal in the dust ?

YOUNG.

25. Love your enemies ; bless them
 that curse you ; do good to
 them that hate you, and pray
 for them which despitefully
 use you and persecute you.

Matt. v. 44.

When I pray as heartily for my enemy as I do for my daily bread,—when I strive with prayers and tears to make God *his* friend who himself will not be mine,—when I reckon his felicity amongst my own necessities,—surely this is such a love as in a literal sense may be said to reach up to heaven.

SOUTH.

O loving and forgiving,
 Ye angel words of earth,
 Years were not worth the living
 If ye too had not birth:
 Still breathe your influence o'er us
 Whene'er by passion cross'd,
 And, angel-like, restore us
 The paradise we lost.

26. My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord. *Psalm v. 3.*

No word spoken to God from the serious sense of a holy heart is lost: he receives it and returns it into our bosom with advantage. A soul that delights to speak with him will find that he also delights to speak with it. And this communication certainly is the sweetest and happiest choice,—to speak little with men and much with God.

LEIGHTON.

I cannot ope mine eyes,
But thou art ready there, to catch
My morning soul and sacrifice.

HERBERT.

27. Be of good cheer. *Mark vi. 50.*

Thy battle-cry, O Christian! thy charm against despondency in the great strifes of life! It possesses a mystic force beyond all the amulets of Oriental fame. "Be of good cheer." "Never despair." How cheerfully it echoes along the chambers of the soul! What a call to its sinking energies! How it silences the silly prattle of fear! How it revives the silent, drooping heart of hope!

Give to the winds thy fears;
Hope, and be undismay'd:
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears;
God shall lift up thy head.

J. WESLEY.

28. As a dream when one awaketh.

Psalm lxxiii. 20.

What is this world? A dream within a dream. As we grow older, each step is an awakening. The youth awakes, as he thinks, from childhood; the full-grown man despises the pursuits of youth as visionary; the old man looks on manhood as a feverish dream. The grave, the last sleep? No! it is the last and final awakening.

WALTER SCOTT.

Our waking dreams are fatal. How I dreamt
 Of things impossible! (Could sleep do more?)
 Of joys perpetual in perpetual change!
 Of stable pleasures on the tossing wave!
 Eternal sunshine in the storms of life!
 How richly were my noontide trances hung
 With gorgeous tapestries of pictured joys,—
 Joy behind joy, in endless perspective,—
 Till, at Death's toll, . . .
 Starting I woke, and found myself undone.

YOUNG.

29. For by grace are ye saved,
 through faith; and that not
 of yourselves: it is the gift of
 God.

Eph. ii. 8.

Mercy is God's right hand; with that God gives
 all: faith is man's right hand; with that man takes
 all.

DONNE.

Save us by grace, through faith alone,—
 A faith thou must thyself impart,—
 A faith that would by works be shown,
 A faith that purifies the heart.

C. WESLEY.

30. Set your affection on things
 above, not on things on the
 earth.

Col. iii. 2.

Were we lodged in a star, then the earth would appear very small, and almost nothing, as the stars do now to us: so, were we more above, the earth would appear either as very small or as nothing. Thus it is with a child of God: he soars up by the wings of faith and love to the heavenly Jerusalem, and the earth appears very inconsiderable.

HOPKINS.

From earth we shall quickly remove
And mount to our native abode,—
The house of our Father above,—
The palace of angels and God.

31. Cleanse thou me from secret faults. *Psalm xix.*-12.

Not a few of the tragedies of sin are wrought out before no witnesses but God and the erring soul. Men heap up wrath in the secret places of their own hearts. Fearful histories there are of souls undone, which will only be read when the books shall be opened at the final judgment.

Oh, bid my fainting spirit live,
And what is dark reveal,
And what is evil, oh, forgive,
And what is broken heal,
And cleanse my nature from above
In the deep Jordan of thy love.

APRIL.

1. I CAN do all things through Christ
which strengtheneth me.

Phil. iv. 13.

What can I not bear with the help of God? What
can I do or suffer without it?

ADAM.

Strong in the Lord of Hosts
And in his mighty power,
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts
Is more than conqueror.

2. When the times of refreshing
shall come from the presence
of the Lord.

Acts iii. 19.

Prayer is the key to open the day and the bolt
to shut in the night. But as the skies drop the
early dew and the evening dew upon the grass,
yet it would not spring and grow green by that
constant and double falling of the dew, unless some
great showers at certain seasons did supply the rest:

so the customary devotion of prayer twice a day is the falling of the early and the latter dew; but, if you will increase and flourish in the works of grace, empty the great clouds sometimes, and let them fall into a full shower of prayer; choose out the seasons in your own discretion when prayer shall overflow like Jordan in the time of harvest.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Saviour, visit thy plantation;
 Grant us, Lord, a gracious rain:
 All will come to desolation
 Unless thou return again.

NEWTON.

3. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee.

Psalm lxxiii. 25.

It is to thee, O Lord God, that I owe all things, and it is to thee that I now surrender up all that I am. Do with me, O my God, whatsoever thou pleasest. Thou seest my weakness and misery without thee. Thou knowest that there is nothing in heaven or on earth that I desire but thee alone.

MADAME GUYON.

And, oh, when faith is merged in sight
 And death's mysterious shadows flee,
 Thee first in that unfading world
 The just made perfect long to see.

The rainbow round the throne grows dim;
 The pearly gates attract no more;
 For heart and eye with Christ are fill'd,
 And Faith can have no richer store.

JONES.

4. Let my prayer be set forth before
 thee as incense, and the lift-
 ing up of my hands as the
 evening sacrifice. *Psalm cxli. 2.*

Sincere confession,—praising of the holy name of our God, with thankful acknowledgment of received mercies,—of these sweet ingredient perfumes is the incense of prayer composed; and by the divine fire of love it ascends unto God, the heart and all with it; and when the hearts of the saints unite in joint prayer, the pillar of sweet smoke goes up the greater and the fuller.

LEIGHTON.

Softly now the light of day
 Fades upon our sight away:
 Free from care, from labour free,
 Lord, we would commune with thee.

Soon from us the light of day
Shall forever pass away :
Then, from sin and sorrow free,
Take us, Lord, to dwell with thee.

5. The angel of the Lord encampeth
round about them that fear
him, and delivereth them.

Psalm xxxiv. 7.

Faith is the realizing power. Beholding God even now around us, it prepares for heaven by already habituating to the presence of heaven's eternal Master. Even this existing world is a scene of deep awe to the spirit of faith : it is pervaded by the providence of God ; it is visited by his angels.

How oft do they their silver bowers leave
To come to succour us, that succour want !
How oft do they with golden pinions cleave
The flitting skies, like flying pursuivant,
Against foul fiends to aid us militant !
They for us fight, they watch and duly ward,
And their bright squadrons round about us plant,
And all for love, and nothing for reward :
Oh, why should heavenly God to men have such
regard ?

SPENSER.

6. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Rev. vii. 17.

If it be a worthy object of ambition to be loved by the good and the great on earth, what must it be to have an eye of love ever beaming upon us from the Throne?

His own soft hand shall wipe the tears
From every weeping eye,
And pains and groans and griefs and fears,
And death itself, shall die.

WATTS.

7. They cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses.

Psalm cvii. 19.

Trouble is the engine in God's hands to lift us up to heaven.

ADAM.

Though earth-born shadows now may shroud
 Thy thorny path a while,
 God's blessed word can part each cloud
 And bid the sunshine smile.

BERNARD BARTON.

8. And the ransomed of the Lord
 shall return, and come to
 Zion, with songs and ever-
 lasting joy upon their heads.

Isaiah xxxv. 10.

A being already invested with a deathless life, already adopted into the immediate family of God, already enrolled in the brotherhood of angels,—yea, of the Lord of angels,—a being who, amid all the revolutions of earth and skies, feels and knows himself indestructible, capacitated to outlast the universe, a sharer in the immortality of God:—what is there that can be said of such a one which falls not below the awful glory of his position?

ARCHER BUTLER.

Through thee, who all our sins hast borne,
 Freely and graciously forgiven,
 With songs to Zion we return,
 Contending for our native heaven:
 That palace of our glorious King,—
 We find it nearer while we sing.

CHARLES WESLEY.

9. A book of remembrance was written. *Mal. iii. 16.*

The air is one vast library, on whose pages are forever written all that man has ever said or woman whispered. BABBAGE.

Almighty Judge! how shall poor wretches brook
Thy dreadful look—
Able an heart of iron to appall—
When thou shalt call
For every man's peculiar book?

HERBERT.

10. But it shall come to pass that at evening time it shall be light. *Zech. xiv. 7.*

I am come to the eve of a great and eternal day :
I have learned more divinity in ten days than in fifty years before. *Dying words of RIVET.*

Hold on thy way, with hope unchill'd,
By faith, and not by sight,
And thou shalt own his word fulfill'd :
At eve it shall be light.

BARTON.

11. That mortality might be swallowed up of life. *2 Cor. v. 4.*

Our future existence will be the same kind of life or state of being continued which we are fixed in here. Death makes no alteration in our condition: it only clears up our mistakes about it. ADAM.

This is the bud of being, the dim dawn,
The twilight of our day, the vestibule.

YOUNG.

12. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil. *Jer. xxix. 11.*

We looked for a judge, and behold a Saviour; we feared an accuser, and behold an advocate; we sat down in sorrow, and rise in joy; we leaned upon rhubarb and aloes, and our aprons were made of the sharp leaves of Indian fig-trees, and so we fed and so were clothed; but the rhubarb proved medicinal, and the rough leaf of the tree brought its fruit wrapped up in its foldings; and round about our dwellings was planted a hedge of thorns and bundles of thistles, the aconite and the bryony, the night-shade and the poppy; and at the root of these grew the healing plantain, which,

rising up into a tallness by the friendly invitation of heavenly influence, turned about the tree of the cross, and cured the wounds of the thorns, and the curse of the thistles, and the malediction of man, and the wrath of God. JEREMY TAYLOR.

Each evening shows thy tender love,
 Each rising morn thy plenteous grace:
 Thy waken'd wrath doth slowly move;
 Thy willing mercy flies apace.

JOHN WESLEY.

13. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchantman seeking goodly pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Matt. xiii. 45, 56.

The pleasure of the religious man is an easy and a portable pleasure,—such an one as he carries about in his bosom, without alarming either the eye or the envy of the world. A man putting all his pleasure into this one is like a traveller putting all his goods into one jewel: the value is the same, and the convenience greater. SOUTH.

Who is as the Christian wise?
 He his nought for all has given,
 Bought the pearl of greatest price,
 Nobly barter'd earth for heaven.

14. See, I have set before thee this
 day life and good, and death
 and evil. *Deut. xxx. 15.*

Each day is a new life and an abridgment of the
 whole. I will so live as if I counted every day my
 first and my last,—as if I began to live but then and
 should live no more afterwards. **HALL.**

The present we should now redeem;
 This only is our own:
 The past, alas! is all a dream;
 The future is unknown.

15. Light affliction, which is but for
 a moment. *2 Cor. iv. 17.*

One thought of eternity drowns the whole time
 of the world's duration, which is but as one instant,
 or twinkling of an eye, between eternity before and
 eternity after. How much less is my short life!—yea,
 what is it though it were all sufferings without in-

terruption,—which yet it is not! When I look forward to the crown, all vanishes, and I think it less than nothing.

LEIGHTON.

What if the bread
Be bitter in thine inn, and thou unshod,
To meet the flints?—At least it may be said,
“Because the way is *short*, I thank thee, God!”

MRS. BROWNING.

16. It shall come to pass, [saith the Lord,] that before they call I will answer, and while they are yet speaking I will hear.

Isaiah lxxv. 24.

A quicker communion with God have we than even that suggested by the wondrous electric telegraph; for God hears us while we speak, answers us before we ask, and in every case exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think.

CUMMING.

Prayer—the Church's banquet; angels' age;
God's breath in man returning to his birth;
The soul in paraphrase; heart in pilgrimage;
The Christian plummet, sounding heaven and earth.

HERBERT.

17. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil; . . . and their soul shall be as a watered garden, and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

Jer. xxxi. 12.

We are called into the family of God; we are placed as guests at the banquet of heaven; the treasure-cities of eternity are exhausted of their wealth to adorn and enrich us.

ARCHER BUTLER.

When music and devotion join,
The way to Canaan pleasant is;
We travel on with songs divine,
Ravish'd with sacred ecstasies:
No longer do we pass
Through a dry, barren wilderness,
But through a land where milk and honey flow:
The path to heaven above leads through a heaven below.

18. That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour. *2 Pet. iii. 2.*

The Bible claims to be divine. It contains important statements on subjects of vast magnitude. It presents itself to our notice under the highest of all authority. It declares that on its reception or rejection depend our greatest interests in time and eternity. And in support of all these claims and assertions it exhibits an amount of evidence which, for weight and clearness, can be produced by no other book in the world. PEARSON.

'Tis a broad land of wealth unknown,
Where springs of life arise,
Seeds of immortal bliss are sown,
And hidden glory lies.

19. I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. *Psalm cxxxix. 14.*

Did we but seriously consider by what small pins
 this frame of man is held together, it would appear
 no less than a miracle to us that we live one day or
 hour to an end.

HOPKINS.

Thou know'st the texture of my heart,
 My reins, and every vital part :
 I'll praise thee, from whose hands I came
 A work of such a wondrous frame.

20. And his feet like unto fine brass,
 as if they burned in a furnace.

Rev. i. 15.

We took a view of the brass-works at North
 Common; and one thing I learned here,—the pro-
 priety of that expression, “His feet were as fine
 brass burning in the furnace.” The brightness of
 this cannot easily be conceived. I have seen nothing
 like it but clear, white lightning.

JOHN WESLEY.

Thou shin'st with everlasting rays :
 Before the insufferable blaze
 Angels with both wings veil their eyes.

21. Their inward thought is, that
 their houses shall continue

forever, and their dwelling-places to all generations: they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish.

Psalm xlix. 11, 12.

An old woman who showed the house and pictures at Towcester expressed herself in these remarkable words:—"That is Sir Robert Farmer: he lived in the country, took care of his estate, built this house and paid for it, managed well, saved money, and died rich. That is his son: he was made a lord, took a place at court, spent his estate and died a beggar."

Why all this toil for triumphs of an hour?
 What though we wade in wealth or soar in fame?
 Earth's highest station ends in, "Here he lies,"
 And "Dust to dust" concludes her noblest song.

YOUNG.

22. But go ye rather to them that
 . sell, and buy for yourselves.

Matt. xxv. 9.

Who are they? None has this oil but Christ; and he does not sell, but give. The price, if any, is self-emptiness and sense of misery. Go to him instantly. It may be too late to-morrow.

THOMAS ADAM.

See from the Rock a fountain rise :

For you in healing streams it rolls :

Money ye need not bring, nor price,

Ye labouring, burden'd, sin-sick souls.

J. WESLEY.

23. And now, Lord, what wait I
for? my hope is in thee.

Psalm xxxix. 7.

A lowly supplicant to God never rose up from his knees without some stirrings of gracious expectation, nor without a prophetic instinct that the mercy of the Lord was nigh at hand.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Then once more pray :

Down with thy knees, up with thy voice :

Seek pardon first, and God will say,

“Glad heart, rejoice.”

HERBERT.

24. I thank God, through Jesus
Christ our Lord. *Rom. vii. 25.*

I owe it to Jesus that I have a moment's quiet.

ADAM.

Whether I fly with angels, fall with dust,
 Thy hands made both, and I am there :
 Thy power and love, my love and trust
 Make one place everywhere.

HERBERT.

25. Thou heardest the voice of my
 supplications when I cried
 unto thee. . . . *Psalm xxxi. 22.*

The voice of prayer is not like other voices : the farther they reach the weaker they grow. No : that voice which is so weak that it cannot be heard beyond the compass of this closet, yet, when it is put forth in prayer, fills all heaven with its sound.

HOPKINS.

Of what an easy, quick access,
 My blessed Lord, art thou ! How suddenly
 May our requests thine ear invade !—
 To show that state dislikes not easiness.
 If I but lift mine eyes, my suit is made :
 Thou canst no more not hear than thou canst die.

HERBERT.

26. Unto thee will I cry, O Lord
 my rock; be not silent to me:
 lest, if thou be silent to me, I
 become like them that go down
 into the pit. *Psalm xxviii. 1.*

The highest object of man's existence is undoubtedly to hold communion with his God. For this his nature was originally framed, and in this alone will his nature ever find contentment and repose. God is as it were the counterpart of his being: the divine and human elements are fitted to each other; and humanity without the corresponding principle of Deity is a thing imperfect, insufficient, incomplete. This it is that makes human life such an enigma. The vital tie that connected us with heaven is broken: we are as a limb of the body separated from the general circulation. God is the *heart* of this universal frame. We have *deadened the nerve* that conducted his influences.

Whence came I?—Memory cannot say;
 What am I?—Knowledge will not show;
 Bound whither?—Ah! away, away,
 Far as eternity can go:
 Thy love to win, thy wrath to flee,
 O God! thyself my helper be!

27. Make thy face to shine upon thy
servant. *Psalm cxix. 135.*

Give me a firm and tangible hold of spiritual things. Let me know what it is to realize experimental religion. Oh may it be my daily task, my hourly exercise, my *perennial* enjoyment!

CHALMERS.

Eternal Sun of Righteousness,
Display thy beams divine,
And cause the glories of thy face
Upon my heart to shine.

28. He will not suffer me to take
my breath, but filleth me with
bitterness. *Job ix. 18.*

But hath God dealt so with thee? Hast thou not had a morning as well as an evening to make up thy day.

HOPKINS.

Send kindly light amid the encircling gloom,
And lead me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home:
Lead thou me on!
Keep thou my feet: I do not ask to see
The distant scene: one step's enough for me.

29. Ye are the light of the world.

Matt. v. 14.

The way to Christ and heaven is dark or luminous just in proportion as the Church gives forth a clear or a doubtful light.

OLIN.

Jesus, let all thy servants shine
 Illustrious as the sun,
 And bright with borrow'd rays divine
 Their glorious circuit run.

30. That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace.

Ephesians ii. 7.

Interesting as has been the past history of our race, engrossing as must ever be the present, the future, more exciting still, mingles itself with every thought and sentiment, and casts its beams of hope, or its shadows of fear, over the stage both of active and contemplative life. SIR DAVID BREWSTER.

Immortal! what can strike the sense so strong
 As this the soul? It thunders to the thought,
 Quick kindles all that is divine within us,
 Nor leaves one loitering thought beneath the stars.

YOUNG.

M A Y.

1. AND if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. *John xiv. 3.*

In the journey of life, as in other journeys, it is a pleasing reflection, that we have friends who are thinking of us at home and who will receive us with joy when our journey is at an end.

HORNE.

He lives, my mansion to prepare;
He lives, to bring me safely there.

MEDLEY.

2. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh. *Matt. xxv. 6.*

The cry which is to awaken us all out of our sleep! Hear it now in the depths of your souls. He will,—he will come. ADAM.

To damp our earthly joys,
 To increase our gracious fears,
 Forever let the archangel's voice
 Be sounding in our ears
 The solemn midnight cry,—
 Ye dead, the Judge is come;
 Arise, and meet him in the sky,
 And meet your instant doom.

CHARLES WESLEY.

3. One thing have I desired of the
 Lord, that will I seek after.

Psalm xxvii. 4.

A heavenly mind gathers itself up into one wish and no more:—Grant me thyself, O Lord, and I will ask no more. I will part with all to buy that one pearl,—the riches of heavenly grace. TAYLOR.

Thou, Lord, alone, art all thy children need,
 And there is none beside;
 From thee the streams of blessedness proceed;
 In thee the blest abide.
 Fountain of life and all-abounding grace,
 Our source, our centre and our dwelling-place.

MADAME GUYON.

4. But I trusted in thee, O Lord: I
said, Thou art my God.

Psalm xxxi. 14.

Love brings a glowing heart to God. Courage brings an heroic heart to God. Obedience brings a quick foot and a working hand. But faith brings nothing to God but an empty heart, an empty mind, empty hopes and empty merits, and seeks to him for all, that it may have all the good and he may have all the glory.

CUMMING.

Just as I am,—thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because thy promise I believe,—
O Lamb of God, I come.

5. Let us hold fast the profession
of our faith without wavering;
for he is faithful that promised.

Heb. x. 23.

Faith is trust in the promises of God for eternity.

ADAM.

I rest upon thy word:
The promise is for me:
My succour and salvation, Lord,
Shall surely come from thee.

6. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. *Rom. i. 20.*

The heathen, then, were responsible; but the measure of our responsibility is vastly greater than their's. We walk amid a clearer light than what is emitted from those resplendent heavens; we hear louder, fuller, and more impressive voices than any which proceed from the hills and the valleys, the woods and the waters. The revelation which has come to us direct from the throne of the Eternal places us on a ground of responsibility higher far than that occupied by the most gifted sage of the Grecian schools, who had no other light but the glimmering light of nature. PEARSON.

Divine Instructor! Thy first volume, this,
For man's perusal; all in capitals,
In moon and stars (Heaven's golden alphabet)
Emblazed to seize the sight, who runs may read,
Who reads may understand. 'Tis unconfined
To Christian land or Jewry,—fairly writ
In language universal to mankind. YOUNG.

7. He leadeth princes away spoiled,
and overthroweth the mighty.

Job xii. 19.

Such men, methinks, may be well compared to sumpter-horses: they are laden with a rich treasure and attended with a numerous train of servants; but at night, when their load is taken off, what remains to them of all their carriage but only the stripes and weariness of the day?

HOPKINS.

What pain to quit the world, just made their own,
Their nest so deeply down'd, and built so high!
Too low they build, who build beneath the stars.

YOUNG.

8. Whom having not seen, ye love;
in whom, though now ye see
him not, yet believing, ye re-
joice with joy unspeakable
and full of glory. 1 *Pet.* i. 8.

Strong love is a bias upon the thoughts; and for a man to love earnestly and not to think almost continually of what he loves is as impossible as for him to live and not to breathe.

SOUTH.

Though unseen, I love the Saviour :
 He hath brought salvation near,
 Manifests his pardoning favour,
 And, when Jesus doth appear,
 Soul and body
 Shall his glorious image bear.

CHARLES WESLEY.

9. Who his own self bare our sins
 in his own body on the tree,
 that we, being dead to sins,
 should live unto righteousness.

1 *Pet.* ii. 24.

Oh, the lifting of that desperate sinking burthen,
 our sins, and taking them upon himself for us ! How
 far do all words, and, what is larger, all thoughts, fall
 short of the height of that love ! LEIGHTON.

I was a stricken deer, that left the herd
 Long since. With many an arrow deep infix'd
 My panting side was charged, when I withdrew
 To seek a tranquil death in distant shades.
 There was I found by one who had himself
 Been hunted by the archers. In his side he bore,
 And in his hands and feet, the cruel scars.
 With gentle force soliciting the darts,
 He drew them forth, and heal'd, and bade me live.

COWPER.

10. Cast thy burden upon the Lord,
and he shall sustain thee.

Psalm lv. 22.

He that taketh his own cares upon himself loads himself in vain with an uneasy burden. The fear of what may come, expectation of what will come, desire of what will not come, and inability of redressing all these, must needs breed in him continual torment. I will cast my cares upon God: he hath bidden me: they cannot harm him; he can redress them.

Still on the Lord thy burden roll,
Nor let a care remain,
His mighty arm shall bear thy soul
And all thy griefs sustain.

11. And I will pray the Father, and
he shall give you another
Comforter, that he may abide
with you forever. *John xiv. 16.*

What a word for a sorrowing world! The Church militant has its tent pitched in a "valley of tears." The name of the divine visitant who comes to her and ministers to her wants is—*Comforter*.

Our blest Redeemer, ere he breathed
 His last farewell,
 A guide—a comforter—bequeathed
 With us to dwell.

He comes, his graces to impart,
 A willing guest,
 While he can find one humble heart
 Wherein to rest.

LYTE.

12. A partaker of the glory that shall be revealed. 1 Pet. v. 1.

It gives an edge and a sweetness to Christian conference to be speaking of Jesus Christ not only as a King and a Redeemer, but as *their* King and *their* Redeemer; in David's style, *my* King, and *my* God,—to be speaking of the glory to come as *their* inheritance, that of which they are partakers,—their home; as strangers meeting together abroad in some foreign country delight to speak of their own land, their parentage and friends, and the rich patrimony there abiding them. LEIGHTON.

E'en now by faith, we join our hands,
 With those that went before,
 And greet the blood-besprinkled bands
 On the eternal shore.

Our spirits, too, shall quickly join,
 Like their's with glory crown'd,
 And shout to see our Captain's sign,
 To hear his trumpet sound.

CHARLES WESLEY.

13. Ye will not come to me, that ye
 might have life. *John v. 40.*

The gospel seems like a palace full of opened windows, from each of which he issues an invitation declaring that he has no pleasure in our death, but rather that we would turn and live.

Come, for all else must fail and die ;
 Earth is no resting-place for thee ;
 Heavenward direct thy weeping eye :
 I am thy portion : " Come to me."

14. Sufficient unto the day is the
 evil thereof. *Matt. vi. 34.*

Grief for things past that cannot be remedied, and care for things to come that cannot be prevented, may easily hurt, can never benefit me.

HALL.

No profit canst thou gain
 By self-consuming care :
 To him commend thy cause ; his ear
 Attends the softest prayer.

15. His salvation is nigh them that
fear him. *Psalm lxxxv. 9.*

Your pardon is not a thing far away, to be obtained only by hard work and after many years. It is nigh at hand. It is close to you, within your reach all ready to be bestowed, Believe, and that very moment it is your own. RYLE.

Christ is ready to impart
Life to all for life who sigh:
In thy mouth and in thy heart
The word is ever nigh.

16. Thou hast magnified thy word
above all thy name.
Psalm cxxxviii. 2.

The Bible comes to us claiming to have been given by miraculous inspiration of God. There is an impregnable external testimony encircling it, "as the mountains are round about Jerusalem;" and on its pages the finger of God is not less clearly manifested than on the starry heavens. PEARSON.

In vain thy creatures testify of thee,
Till thou proclaim thyself. Their's is indeed
A teaching voice; but 'tis the praise of thine
That whom it teaches it makes prompt to learn,
And, with the boon, gives talents for its use.

COWPER.

17. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Prov. iv. 9.

Grace is glory in the seed; glory is but grace full-blown.

HOPKINS.

The men of grace have found
 Glory begun below;
 Celestial fruit on earthly ground
 From faith and hope may grow.

WATTS.

18. What meanest thou, O sleeper?
 Arise, call upon thy God.

Jonah i. 6.

How can a Christian sleep in such an age as our's,—when life grows grander every year by the increasing knowledge and extended facilities for achieving great results for God and humanity? Truly 'is it a sin against Heaven to have no pulse that beats in the palpitations of an age that trembles with the footsteps of an advancing God.

Gracious Redeemer, shake
 This slumber from my soul!
 Say to me now, Awake, awake!
 And Christ shall make thee whole.

Say to thy mighty hand,
 Alarm me in this hour,
 And make me fully understand
 The thunder of thy power.

CHARLES WESLEY.

19. Fret not thyself because of evil-doers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass.

Psalm xxxvii. 1, 2.

Who could envy a flower, though ever so gay and beautiful in its colours, when he saw that the next stroke of the mower would sweep it away forever?

HORNE.

They flourish like the morning flower
 In beauty's pride array'd,
 But long ere night cut down it lies,
 All wither'd and decay'd.

BURNS.

20. Buy the truth, and sell it not.

Prov. xxiii. 23.

Truth now must be sought, and that with care and diligence before we find it. Jewels do not use to lie upon the surface of the earth; highways are seldom paved with gold: what is most worth our finding calls for the greatest search.

STILLINGFLEET.

No man e'er found a happy life by chance,
Or yawn'd it into being with a wish.

YOUNG.

21. Have the gates of death been
opened unto thee? Or hast
thou seen the doors of the
shadow of death?

Job xxxviii. 17.

A peregrination is this life; and what passenger is so besotted with the pleasures of the way that he forgets the place whither he is to go? How camest thou, then, to forget death, whither thou travellest with speed, and canst not, though thou desirest, rest one small minute by the way?

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Death is the crown of life:
Were death denied, poor man would live in vain;
Were death denied, to live would not be life;
Were death denied, e'en fools would wish to die.

YOUNG.

22. The joy of the Lord is your strength. *Neh. viii. 10.*

If God gives internal comfort, it is not that we may live upon it, but to support and animate us to some further end. ADAM.

My feet shall travel all the length
Of the celestial road,
And march with courage in thy strength
To see my Father, God.

WATTS.

23. Verily, verily, I say unto thee,
Except a man be born again,
he cannot see the kingdom of
God. *John iii. 3.*

Surely they that are not born again shall one day wish they had never been born.

LEIGHTON.

Oh, change these wretched hearts of our's,
And give them life divine:
Then shall our passions and our powers,
Almighty Lord, be thine.

STEELE.

24. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice,
because I said, I go unto the
Father. *John xiv. 28.*

God's house is an hospital at one end and a palace at the other. In the hospital-end are Christ's members upon earth, conflicting with various diseases and confined to a strict regimen of his appointing. What sort of a patient must he be who would be sorry to be told that the hour is come for his dismissal from the hospital, and to see the doors thrown wide open for his admission into the presence?

ADAM.

Enthroned is Jesus now
Upon his heavenly seat,
The kingly crown is on his brow,
The saints are at his feet.

JUDKIN.

25. It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John xvi. 7.

“It is expedient for you that I go away.” How could it be expedient? Would they not be losers to an extent which no man could reckon? The light of his countenance, the blessing of his words, the purity of his presence, the influence of his example,—all to be removed; and this expedient for them!

Enthroned on high, Almighty Lord,
The Holy Ghost send down:
Fulfil in us thy faithful word
And all thy mercies crown.

HUMPHRIES.

26. Praise the Lord from the earth,
ye dragons, and all deeps, . . .
mountains, and all hills.

Psalm cxlviii. 7, 9.

The strength and glory of God's mountains, with their soaring and radiant pinnacles and surging sweeps of measureless distance, kingdoms in their valleys and climates upon their crests.

O ye deep waters, cataract and flood,
What worldless triumph did your voices render!
O mountain-summits, where the angels stood
And shook from head and wing thick dews of
splendour!

MRS. BROWNING.

27. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Psalm xlvi. 2.

Jerusalem,—which, in the history of the past, towers above Greece and Rome, because of that single figure, whose beauty it is the highest type of art to realize,—whose career the sublimest strains of literature but prophesy and record; and whose doctrine it is the noblest struggle of society to realize.

Thy strength, Jerusalem, is o'er,
And broken are thy walls;
The harp of Israel sounds no more
In thy deserted halls:
But where thy kings and prophets stood,
Triumphant over death,
Behold the living soul of God,
The Christ of Nazareth!

28. Having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better.

Phil. i. 23.

I have a good hope and a great desire to see what they are doing on the other side; for of this world I am heartily weary. LEIGHTON.

I long to behold him array'd
 With glory and light from above,—
 The King in his beauty display'd,—
 His beauty of holiest love:
 I languish and sigh to be there,
 Where Jesus hath fix'd his abode:
 Oh, when shall we meet in the air
 And fly to the mountain of God!

CHARLES WESLEY.

29. For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

Jer. viii. 11.

Now, a false tranquillity is more terrible than the storms of a troubled spirit; for those who hope upon deceitful grounds are in the most hopeless state, neglecting what is requisite in order to salvation. Thus innumerable souls pass, in a cloud of delusion, to the kingdom of darkness. BATES.

In Gilead there is balm,
 A kind Physician there,
 My fever'd mind to calm
 And bid me not despair :
 Aid me, dear Saviour ! set me free :
 My all I would resign to thee.

30. Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

2 Cor. iii. 3.

Let the savour of your religion, like Mary's precious ointment, fill all the houses where you dwell. Be an epistle of Christ,—so clearly written, penned in such large, bold characters, that he who runs may read it.

RYLE.

Oh, let our love and faith abound !
 Oh, let our lives to all around
 With purest lustre shine !
 That all around our works may see,
 And give the glory, Lord, to thee,
 The heavenly light divine.

31. What man knoweth the things
of a man, save the spirit of
man which is in him ?

1 *Cor.* ii. 11.

How much of our life passes in our walks, in our journeyings, in our labours, in our rest,—and all in the depths of unbroken silence ! The whole of no human being's life is known to another, possessed by another, though that other be in the closest and most constant communion with his life. And then Death ! Death, always in shadow, always in silence, always absolute in isolation !

GILES.

Alone with thee in that dread strife,
Uphold me through mine agony,
And gently be this dying life
Exchanged for immortality.

MONTGOMERY.

JUNE.

1. PARTAKERS of the inheritance of the saints in light. *Col: i. 12.*

There is a saying recorded in Plutarch of a rich Roman, Croesus, that he did not think that man rich that knew all that he had. Truly, in this man's account, a Christian is truly rich: he hath laid up more treasure than himself knows of. But though a Christian knows not how much he hath, yet he shall lose none: it is safe, being laid up in heaven; every star is as a seal set upon the treasure-door, that none may break in and violate it.

HOPKINS.

There is my house and portion fair;
My treasure and my heart are there,
And my abiding home:
For me my elder brethren stay,
And angels beckon me away,
And Jesus bids me come.

JOHN WESLEY.

2. If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. *John x. 24, 25.*

I know men, and I tell you that Jesus is not a man. The religion of Christ is a mystery, which subsists by its own force, and proceeds from a mind which is not a human mind. Jesus is not a philosopher; for his proofs are miracles, and from the first his disciples adored him. Alexander, Cæsar, Charlemagne, and myself founded empires; but on what foundations did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded an empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for him. *NAPOLEON BUONAPARTE.*

The Christ by raptured seers foretold,
Fill'd with the Holy Spirit's power,
Prophet and priest and king behold,
And Lord of all the world adore.

3. They regard not the works of the Lord, nor the operation of his hands. *Psalms xxviii. 5.*

It is unfortunate, I have thought within these few minutes, while looking out on one of the most enchanting nights of the most interesting season of the year, and hearing the voices of a company of persons, to whom I can perceive that this soft and solemn shade over the earth, the calm sky, the beautiful stripes of cloud, the stars, and the waning moon just risen, are things not in the least more interesting than the walls, ceiling and candlelight of a room.

JOHN FOSTER.

Acquaint thyself with God, if thou wouldst taste
His works. Admitted once to his embrace,
Thou shalt perceive that thou wast blind before,
Thine eye shall be instructed, and thine heart,
Made pure, shall relish with divine delight,
Till then unfelt, what hands divine have wrought.

COWPER.

4. Are not my days few?

Job x. 20.

Remembrance can with one glance review what is past; and why should hope and expectation look upon what is to come as boundless and infinite? Surely both hemispheres of our lives have equal horizons; and we shall find that our past and future years have but just the same measure.

HOPKINS.

Our days run thoughtlessly along,
 Without a moment's stay :
 Just like a story or a song
 We pass our lives away.

WATTS.

5. Behold, thou hast made my days
 as a handbreadth.

Psalm xxxix. 5.

Consider that thy life takes up a very small and
 inconsiderable part of time. It is but a little pattern
 cut thee off from the great picce.

HOPKINS.

That solar shadow, as it measures life,
 It life resembles too. Life speeds away
 From point to point, though seeming to stand still.
 'Tis later with the wise than he's aware :
 ——— Fresh hopes are hourly sown
 In furrow'd brows. To gentle life's descent
 We shut our eyes, and think it is a plain.

YOUNG.

6. Forgetting those things which
 are behind. *Philippians iii. 13.*

Forget mistakes; organize victory out of mistakes.
 Do not stop too long to weep over spilt water. For-

get your guilt (but not your Saviour,) and wait to see what eternity has to say to it. You have other work to do now.

Not backward are our glances bent,
But onward to our Father's home.

7. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat: the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2 Peter iii. 10.

By God's word the world is doomed. There are no signs of ruin yet. We tread upon it like a solid thing fortified by its adamant hills forever. There is nothing against that but a few words in a printed book. But the world is mined; and just at the moment when serenity is at its height, the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements melt with fervent heat, and the feet of the Avenger shall stand upon the earth.

ROBERTSON.

All things that are on earth shall wholly pass away,
Except the love of God, which shall live and last for aye;
And the great globe itself, (so the Holy Scriptures tell,
With the rolling firmament where the starry armies dwell,
Shall melt with fervent heat: they all shall pass away,
Except the love of God, which shall live and last for aye.

BRYANT.

8. Now, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. *Heb. xi. 1.*

A strong faith can recall things that are long passed, and make them exist again: so that time devours nothing, but to an ignorant person or an unbeliever. And truly, unless faith do thus recall the sufferings of Christ, not to our memories only, but to our hearts and affections, they will all appear to us but as a story of somewhat done long ago, and as an outworn, antiquated thing.

HOPKINS.

Faith builds a hedge from this world to the next,
O'er death's dark gulf, and all its horror hides.

YOUNG.

9. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God. *Heb. xi. 3.*

Scripture has not spoken with an articulate voice of the future locality of the blest; but Reason has combined the scattered utterances of inspiration, and, with a voice almost oracular, has declared that He who made the worlds will, in the worlds which he has made, place the beings of his choice.

SIR DAVID BREWSTER.

What arm almighty put these wheeling globes
 In motion, and wound up the vast machine?
 Who rounded in his palm these spacious orbs?
 Who bowled them flaming through the dark profound,
 Numerous as glittering gems of morning dew?
 Who marshals this bright host, enrolls their names,
 Appoints their post, their marches and returns
 Punctual at stated periods? He whose word
 Like the loud trumpet levied first their powers
 In night's inglorious empire, where they slept
 In beds of darkness, arm'd them with fierce flames,
 Arranged, and disciplined, and clothed in gold.

YOUNG.

10. Before I was afflicted, I went
 astray: but now have I kept
 thy word. *Psalm cxix. 67.*

Christians are like clocks: the more weight is
 hung upon them, the faster they go.

HOPKINS.

Then, with my waking thoughts
 Bright with thy praise,
 Out of my stormy griefs
 Bethel I'll raise,—
 So by my woes to be
 Nearer, my God, to thee,—
 Nearer to thee.*

ADAMS.

11. Provide yourselves bags which
 wax not old, a treasure in the
 heavens that faileth not.

Luke xii. 33.

This is to lay up treasure in heaven, to remit thy moneys to the other world, where they shall be truly paid thee with abundant interest. This is to lay up a stock for hereafter, that thou mayest have whereon to live splendidly and gloriously to all eternity.

Go, clothe the naked, lead the blind,
 Give to the weary rest,
 For sorrow's children comfort find
 And help for all distress'd ;
 But give to Christ alone thy heart,
 Thy faith, thy love, supreme :
 Then for his sake thine alms impart,
 And, so, give all to him.

12. To-day shalt thou be with me
in Paradise. *Luke xxiii. 43.*

In whatever soil this word [Paradise] struck root, it always had a sound of encouragement and delight. Flowers and fresh airs breathe in it. It occurs three times in the New Testament,—in our Lord's promise to the robber, in St. Paul's vision, and in St. John's Revelation; and in each case it evidently represents a place beyond the stir and the troubles of the world, sheltered by God's particular love and inhabited by beings who enjoy his favour.

WILMOTT.

An Eden this! a Paradise unlost!
Oh that I could but reach the tree of life!
For here it grows unguarded from our taste:
No flaming sword denies our entrance here.

YOUNG.

13. Exceeding great and precious
promises. *2 Peter i. 4.*

Every promise is a ticket given us by God to take up mansions of treasure in heaven; it is vocal glory; it is happiness in words and syllables; it is eternity couched in a sentence.

Still sure to me thy promise stands,
 And ever must abide :
 Behold it written on thy hands
 And graven in thy side.

MONTGOMERY.

14. That ye may know what is the
 hope of his calling, and what
 the riches of the glory of his
 inheritance in the saints.

Eph. i. 18.

The long-wished-for day has come at last, when
 I shall see that glory in another manner than I
 have ever done, or was capable of doing, in this
 world.

OWEN.

How welcome those untrodden spheres !
 How sweet this very hour to die,
 To soar from earth and find all fears
 Lost in thy light, Eternity !

Oh, in that future let us think
 To hold each heart the heart that shares,
 With them the immortal waters drink,
 And soul in soul grow deathless theirs !

15. Now, no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Heb. xii. 11.

As spices send forth their most fragrant scents when they are most bruised, so are the graces of God's people more sweet and redolent when they are crushed and bruised under the pressure of heavy affliction.

HOPKINS.

So will I bless the hour that sent
The mercy of the rod,
And build an altar by the tent
Where I have met with God.

J. B.

16. The Lord shall count when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there.

Psalm lxxxvii. 6.

God's hand is continually turning over our days and years, like the leaves of a book: there is some-

thing written in every one of them: the last is coming; and that, like the index or table, must give account of all the rest.

HOPKINS.

On human hearts he bends a jealous eye,
 And marks and in heaven's register enrolls
 The rise and progress of each option there,
 Sacred to doomsday! That the page unfolds
 And spreads as to the gaze of gods and men.

YOUNG.

17. Job sent and sanctified them,
 and rose up early in the morn-
 ing, and offered burnt-offerings
 according to the number of
 them all.

Job i. 5.

The new immortal that has fallen down into the midst of the Christian family is to be taken into the soul of its piety, to be sanctified by its prayer and faith, and to form a part of that reasonable and acceptable offering in which, morning and evening, the godly parents lay all that they are, and all that they have, on the altar of sacrifice.

Jesus the ancient faith confirms,
 To our great father given:
 He takes our children in his arms
 And calls them heirs of heaven.

WATTS.

18. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance: that they might obtain a better resurrection. *Heb. xi. 35.*

A Christian, being injured and tormented by the heathens and afterwards cast into prison, being asked by some one what miracles Christ had ever wrought, answered him, "The same that you now see,—that, though I have been thus ill handled by you, I am not moved with it."

How beautiful falls
From human lips that blessed word,—forgive!
Thrice happy he whose heart has been so school'd
In the meek lessons of humanity
That he can give it utterance: it imparts
Celestial grandeur to the human soul
And maketh man an angel.

19. Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? *Ezek. xxxiii. 11.*

Vain men! death is at your heels, and at its heels are judgment and eternity. Is it time for you to mind every trifle of this life—how to make a compliment

or a visit—when you are just splitting against the Rock of ages and plunging into the lake of fire?

Time flies, death urges, knells call, heaven invites,
 Hell threatens: all exerts, in effort all;—
 Man sleeps,—and man alone; and man, whose fate,
 Fate irreversible, entire, extreme,
 Endless, hair-hung, breeze-shaken, o'er the gulf
 A moment trembles, drops!

YOUNG.

20. And thou shalt make a plate of
 pure gold, and grave upon it,
 like the engravings of a signet,
 HOLINESS TO THE LORD.

Exodus xxviii. 36.

Morning has risen into day. Are we children of that day? For form we have spirit; for Gerizim and Zion, our common scenery. The ministry of Aaron is ended. His ephod, with its gold and blue and scarlet and fine twined linen and cunning work, has faded and dropped. The breastplate of judgment has been crushed and lost. The pomegranates are cast aside like untimely fruit. The golden bells are silent. Even the mitre, with its

sacred signet, and the grace of the fashion of it, has perished. All the outward glory and beauty of that Hebrew worship has vanished into the eternal splendours of the gospel and been fulfilled in Christ.

HUNTINGTON.

'Tis finish'd! Aaron now no more
Must stain his robes with purple gore;
The sacred veil is rent in twain,
And Jewish rites no more remain.

21. To him that knoweth to do
good and doeth it not, to him
it is sin.

James iv. 17.

It was a first command and counsel of my earliest youth always to do what my conscience told me to be a duty, and to leave the consequence to God. I shall carry with me the memory and, I trust, the practice of this paternal lesson to the grave.

LORD ERSKINE.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death thy endless mercies seal
And make the sacrifice complete.

CHARLES WESLEY.

22. We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

1 *Tim.* vi. 7.

Truly it is a long journey into the other world; and gold and silver and earthly treasure are too heavy a portage to be carried with you thither.

HOPKINS.

Vain his ambition, noise and show;

Vain are the cares which rack his mind:

He heaps up treasures mixed with woe,

And dies, and leaves them all behind.

STEELE.

23. For I determined not to know any thing among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 *Cor.* ii. 2.

Over the wide field of divine truth it behooves the Christian teacher to conduct his disciples and to make them acquainted with every flower and tree that grows on its surface: but all his lessons should be given from under the shadow of the cross; and,

on whatever subject he touches, there should be a constant reference to this as the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.

THOMAS PEARSON.

One Spirit—His
Who wore the plaited thorns with bleeding brow—
Rules universal nature.

COWPER.

24. Sow to yourselves in righteousness.

Hosea x. 12.

The seeds of those spiritual joys and raptures which are to rise up and flourish in the soul to all eternity must be planted in her during this her present state of probation. Heaven is not to be looked upon only as the reward, but as the natural effect, of a religious life.

ADDISON.

Thou canst not toil in vain :
Cold, heat, and moist and dry,
Shall foster and mature the grain
For garners in the sky.

MONTGOMERY.

25. Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Psalms lxxxv. 10.

The very name of peace is sweet and lovely : it is the calm of the world, the smile of nature, the harmony of all things, a gentle and melodious air struck from well-tuned affairs,—a blessing so excellent and amiable that in this world there is but one preferable before it, and that is holiness.

HOPKINS.

Might but a little part,
 A wandering breath, of that high melody
 Descend into my heart
 And change it till it be
 Transform'd and swallow'd up of love in thee !

Ah, then my soul should know,
 Beloved, where thou liest at noon of day,
 And, from this place of woe
 Released, should take its way
 To mingle with thy flock, and never stray.

LUIS DE LEON.

26. It is required in stewards that
 a man be found faithful.

1 *Cor.* iv. 2.

It is a most responsible function, that of acting as God's almoner in this populous, perishing, poverty-stricken world.

OLIN.

Father, into thy hands alone
 I have my all restored :
 My all thy property I own,—
 The steward of the Lord.

27. The just shall live by faith.

Hebrews x. 38.

The heart's matchless telescope is simple, child-like faith; and every spot of common life where Providence plants our feet is an observatory—if we will but stand on it looking upward, devoutly upward—lofty enough for the whole sweep of that commanding heaven.

HUNTINGDON.

The want of sight she well supplies ;
 She makes the pearly gates appear ;
 Far into distant worlds she pries
 And brings eternal glories near.

WATTS.

28. Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

John vi. 12.

You have heard of the Turkish piety that will carefully put aside all fragments of paper, lest the name of God written on them by chance should be

trodden on and profaned. Christian reverence will gather up the scraps of time and opportunity, because on them all is certainly stamped the law of religious accountability. HUNTINGDON.

What moment's granted man without account ?

Moments seize :

Heaven's on their wing : a moment we may wish

When worlds want wealth to buy.

YOUNG.

29. And all the people said, Amen,
and praised the Lord.

1 *Chron.* xvi. 36.

Saint Jerome tells us it was the custom in his days to close up every prayer with such an unanimous consent that their Amens rung and echoed in the church, and sounded like the fall of waters, or the noise of thunder.

There is a joy which angels well may prize,—
To see and hear and aid God's worship when
Unnumber'd tongues, a host of Christian men,
Youths, maidens, matrons, join. Their sounds arise,
"Like many waters,"—now glad symphonies
Of thanks and glory to our God, and then—
Seal of the social prayer—the loud Amen,
Faith's common pledge, contrition's mingled cries.

MANT.

30. Whoso is wise, and will observe

these things, even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord. *Psalm cvii.* 43.

Thus familiar with the great works of creation,—thus seeing them through the heart as well as through the eye,—the young will look to the future with a keener glance and with brighter hopes; the weary and heavy-laden will rejoice in the vision of their place of rest; the philosopher will scan with a new sense the lofty spheres in which he is to study; and the Christian will recognise in the eternal abodes the joyous temples in which he is to offer his sacrifices of praise.

SIR DAVID BREWSTER.

To these the Sire Omnipotent unfolds
The world's harmonious volume, there to read
The transcript of himself. On every part
They trace the bright impressions of his hand.

—————The high-born soul
Disdains to rest her heaven-aspiring wing
Beneath its native quarry. Tired of earth
And this diurnal scene, she springs aloft
Through fields of air. Now, amazed, she views
The empyreal waste, where happy spirits hold,
Beyond this concave heaven, their calm abode;
And fields of radiance, whose unfading light
Has travell'd the profound six thousand years
Nor yet arrives in sight of mortal things.

AKENSIDE.

JULY.

1. ENTER not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. *Prov. iv. 14.*

Sir Peter Lely made it a rule never to look at a bad picture,—having found by experience that, whenever he did so, his pencil took a tint from it. Apply this to bad books and bad company. HORNE.

That man, in life wherever placed,
Has happiness in store,
Who walks not in the wicked's way
Nor learns their guilty lore.

WATTS.

2. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward, in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Gen. ii. 8.

There was not then so vast a difference between the angelical and human life: the angels and men both fed on the same dainties: all the difference was, they were in the upper room, in heaven, and man in the summer parlour, in paradise.

STILLINGFLEET.

Are ye forever to your skies departed?

Oh, will ye visit this dim world no more,—
Ye, whose bright wings a solemn splendour darted
Through Eden's fresh and flowering shades of yore?

But may ye not, unseen, around us hover,

With gentle promptings and sweet influence, yet,—
Though the fresh glory of those days be over
When, midst the palm-trees, man your footsteps met?

MRS. HEMANS.

And the door was shut.

Matt. xxv. 10.

Never to be opened!

ADAM.

The day of wrath,—that dreadful day,
When heaven and earth shall pass away!
What power shall be the sinner's stay?
How shall he meet that dreadful day?

4. Sing praises unto our God; for
it is pleasant, and praise is
comely. *Psalm cxlvii. 1.*

Every furrow in the book of Psalms is sown with such seeds. I know nothing more certain; more constant to expel the sadness of the world, than to sound out the praises of the Lord as with a trumpet; and, when the heart is cast down, it will make it rebound from earth to heaven.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Oh, may I breathe no longer than I breathe
My soul in praise to Him who gave my soul
And all her infinite of prospect fair.

YOUNG.

5. A prudent man foreseeth the evil,
and hideth himself; but the
simple pass on, and are pun-
ished. *Prov. xxii. 3.*

Hell is truth seen too late.

ADAM.

The keen vibration of bright truth—is Hell;
Men may live fools, but fools they cannot die.

YOUNG.

6. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

John iii. 8.

He can stretch and expand thy straitened heart, can hoist and spread the sails within thee, and then carry thee on swiftly, filling them, not with the vain air of man's applause, which readily runs a soul upon rocks and splits it, but with the sweet breathings and soft gales of his own Spirit, which carry it straight to the desired haven.

LEIGHTON.

If every one that asks may find,—
 If still thou dost on sinners fall,—
 Come, as a mighty, rushing wind;
 Great grace be now upon us all!

CHARLES WESLEY.

7. Is this your joyous city, whose antiquity is of ancient days?

Isaiah xxiii. 7.

Pyramids, arches, obelisks, were but the irregularities of vain-glory and wild enormities of ancient magnanimity. But the most magnanimous resolution rests in the Christian religion, which trampleth upon pride, and sits on the neck of ambition, humbly pursuing that infallible perpetuity unto which all others must diminish their diameters and be poorly seen in angles of contingency.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

Empires die: Where now
 The Roman? Greek? They stalk, an empty name!
 O Death! I stretch my view: what visions rise!
 What triumphs! toils imperial! arts divine!
 In wither'd laurels glide before my sight!
 What lengths of far-famed ages, billow'd high
 With human agitation, roll along
 In unsubstantial images of air!

YOUNG.

8. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. *Prov. iii. 17.*

Religion gives birth to hope, it cherishes joy, it nourishes great thoughts, it produces enchanting desires, it colours the earth over with the gay light of heaven, and makes the ways of every man the

ways of pleasantness, and his paths the paths of peace.

SYDNEY SMITH.

Though nature shakes, how soft to lean on heaven,
 To lean on Him on whom archangels lean !
 With inward eyes, and silent as the grave,
 They stand, collecting every beam of thought,
 Till their hearts kindle with divine delight ;
 For all their thoughts, like angels seen of old
 In Israel's dream, come from and go to heaven.

YOUNG.

9. Thy will be done in earth, as it
 is in heaven. *Matt. vi. 10.*

Man (a minister of Christ, in particular) should resemble angels in reconciling duty with devotion. They minister to the heirs of salvation, yet always behold the face of their Father in heaven.

HORNE.

I ask in confidence the grace
 That I may do thy will,
 As angels who behold thy face,
 And all thy words fulfil.

CHARLES WESLEY.

10. God hath made man upright;
 but they have sought out
 many inventions. *Eccl. vii. 29.*

God created the soul of man not only capable of finding out the truth of things, but furnished him with a sufficient touchstone to discover truth from falsehood, by a light set up in his understanding, which if he had attended to he might have secured himself from all impostures and deceits.

STILLINGFLEET.

In early days the conscience has in most
A quickness, which in later life is lost,
Preserved from guilt by salutary fears,
Or, guilty, soon relenting into tears,
That, taught of God, they may indeed be wise,
Nor, ignorantly wandering, miss the skies.

COWPER.

11. What man is he that liveth, and
shall not see death?

Psalm lxxxix. 48.

The way of this life is not voluntary, like that of travellers, but necessary, like that of condemned persons from the prison unto the place of execution. To death thou standest condemned, whither thou art now going: how canst thou laugh?

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Oh, then, ere the turf or tomb
 Cover us from every eye,
 Spirit of instruction, come,
 Make us learn that we must die!

COWPER.

12. And who is he that will harm
 you, if ye be followers of that
 which is good? 1 *Peter* iii. 13.

If we were at peace within, external things would
 have but little power to hurt us. ADAM.

His hand the good man fastens on the skies,
 And bids earth roll, nor feels her idle whirl.

YOUNG.

13. For they have refreshed my
 spirit and your's. 1 *Cor.* xvi. 18.

The unconscious influence of a Christian man is
 the power that shapes society most rapidly, and tells
 most powerfully, and leaves behind it the most
 enduring, beneficent impressions. CUMMING.

Though time will wear us, and we must grow old,
 Such men are not forgot as soon as cold:
 Their fragrant memory will outlast their tomb,
 Embalm'd forever in its own perfume.

COWPER.

14. Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?

Cant. iii. 6.

This would refresh us in the hardest labour,—as they that carry the spices from Arabia are refreshed with the smell of them in their journey, and some observe that it keeps their strength and frees them from fainting.

LEIGHTON.

How sweetly doth *My Master* sound; My Master!
 As ambergris leaves a rich scent
 Unto the taste,
 So do those words a sweet content,
 An Oriental fragraney:—My Master!

HERBERT.

15. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age.

Psalm xcii. 13, 14.

There is nothing more odious than fruitless old age. Now, for that no tree bears fruit in autumn unless it blossom in the spring, to the end that my age may be profitable and laden with ripe fruit, I will endeavour that my youth may be studious and flowered with the blossoms of learning and observation.

BISHOP HALL.

These, planted in the house of God,
 Within his courts shall thrive :
 Their vigour and their lustre both
 Shall in old age revive.

16. I will not leave you comfortless :
 I will come to you.

John xiv. 18.

How often has that voice broken with its silvery accents the muffled stillness of the sick-chamber or death-chamber ! “*I will not leave you comfortless :*” the world *may*, friends *may*, the desolations of bereavement and death *may* ; but *I will not* : you will be alone, yet *not* alone ; for I, your Saviour and your God, will be with you.

I need thy presence every passing hour :
 What but thy grace can foil the tempest’s power ?
 Who like thyself my guide and stay can be ?
 On to the close, O Lord, abide with me !

LYTE.

17. Speak unto the children of Israel
that they go forward.

Exodus xiv. 15.

Oh, as ever you would be useful and happy in religion, let your motto be, "Forward! forward!" to your very last day.

RYLE.

Saviour, where'er thy steps I see,
Dauntless, untired, I follow thee:
Oh, let thy hand support me still,
And lead me to thy holy hill.

JOHN WESLEY.

18. He raiseth up the poor out of
the dust, and lifteth up the
beggar from the dunghill, to
set them among princes, and
to make them inherit the
throne of glory. 1 *Sam.* ii. 8.

Providence often sets the grandest spirits in the lowest places, and gives to many a man a soul far better than his birth.

Upwards tending,
Like plants in mines which never saw the sun,
But dream of him and guess where he may be,
They do their best to climb, and get to him.

ROBERT BROWNING.

19. So am I made to possess months
of vanity, and wearisome
nights are appointed to me.

Job vii. 3.

The greatest vanity of this world is remarkable in this,—that all its joys summed up together are not big enough to counterpoise the evil of one sharp disease or to allay a sorrow. JEREMY TAYLOR.

Resolve me why the cottager and king,—
He whom sea-sever'd realms obey, and he
Who steals his whole dominion from the waste,
Repelling winter-blasts with mud and straw,—
Disquieted alike, draw sigh for sigh,
In fate so distant, in complaint so near?
His grief is but his grandeur in disguise,
And discontent is immortality.

YOUNG.

20. Where is the house of the
prince? and where are the
dwelling-places of the wicked?

Job xxi. 28.

The sun shines in his full brightness but the very moment before he passes under a cloud. He who builds upon the present builds upon the narrow

compass of a point; and where the foundation is so narrow the superstructure cannot be high and strong too.

SOUTH.

Too low they build, who build beneath the stars!

YOUNG.

21. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Heb. xii. 14.

The highest beauty of the soul, the very image of God upon it, is holiness. He that is aspiring to it himself is upon a most excellent design; and, if he can do any thing to excite and call up others to it, he performs a work of the greatest charity.

LEIGHTON.

'Tis Love unites what Sin divides,—
 The centre where all bliss resides,—
 To which the soul, once brought,
 Reclining on the First Great Cause,
 From his abounding sweetness draws
 Peace passing human thought.

MADAME GUYON.

22. Hold up my goings in thy paths,
 that my footsteps slip not.

Psalms xvii. 5.

It is upon the smooth ice we slip: the rough path
is safest for the feet. EVANS.

My spirit labours up the hill,
And climbs the heavenly road;
But thy right hand upholds me still,
While I pursue my God.

WATTS.

23. And white robes were given
unto every one of them.

Rev. vi. 11.

We must here have our loins girt; but when come there we may wear our long white robes at their full length without disturbance,—for there is nothing there but peace,—and without danger of defilement,—for no unclean thing is there; yea, the streets of that new Jerusalem are paved with gold.

LEIGHTON.

In shining white they stand,
A great and countless throng,
A palmy sceptre in each hand,
On every lip a song.

JUDKIN.

24. Is any among you afflicted? let
him pray. *James* v. 13.

Prayer turns our thoughts from men to angels,—from frailty to perfection,—from a few evil days to a happy eternity,—from a jumble of sighs and joys to a gladness that endureth forever.

My God, O Jehovah, I have trusted in thee ;
O Jesus, my Saviour, now rescue thou me :
Like fetters in iron, deep griefs me environ. Thy smile
let me see !

With sighing and crying, at thy feet lowly lying,
I adore thee, implore thee, now rescue thou me !

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS.

25. He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness.

Isaiah lvii. 2.

Some have died with more joy than they lived, and triumphed over the last enemy with the vocal praises of God ; others, with silent affections, have quietly commended their spirits into his hand. Some have inward refreshings and support ; others, exuberant joys and ravishments, as if the light of glory shined into them, or the veil of flesh were drawn and their spirits were present with the invisible world.

BATES.

'Tis but the falling of a wither'd leaf,—
 The breaking of a shell,
 The rending of a veil!
 Oh, when that leaf shall fall,—
 That shell be burst,—that veil be rent,—may then
 My spirit be with thine!

SOUTHEY.

26. Your life is hid with Christ in
 God. *Col. iii. 3.*

There is no true life but the life of faith. O Lord,
 let me live out of the world with thee, if thou wilt;
 but let me not live in the world without thee.

HALL.

Thou hidden love of God, whose height,
 Whose depths unfathom'd, no man knows,
 I see from far thy beauteous light;
 Inly I sigh for thy repose:
 My heart is pain'd, nor can it be
 At rest till it finds rest in thee.

JOHN WESLEY.

27. For the wages of sin is death:
 but the gift of God is eternal
 life through Jesus Christ our
 Lord. *Rom. vi. 23.*

In heaven sin known and pardoned is the song of praise ; sin known and unpardoned is hell.

ADAM.

Eternal life to all mankind
 Thou hast in Jesus given ;
 And all who seek in him shall find
 The happiness of heaven.

28. I die daily.

1 Cor. xv. 31.

While we think a thought, we die, and the clock strikes, and reckons on a portion of our eternity : we form our words with the breath of our nostrils ; we have the less to live upon for every word we speak.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Our wasting lives grow shorter still
 As days and months increase,
 And every beating pulse we tell
 Leaves but the number less.

WATTS.

29. Followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Heb. vi. 12.

God appoints to every one of his creatures a separate mission ; and if they discharge it honourably,

if they quit themselves like men, and faithfully follow that light which is in them, withdrawing from it all cold and quenching influence, there will assuredly come of it such burning as, in its appointed mode and measure, shall shine before men and be of service constant and holy. Degrees infinite of lustre there must always be; but the weakest among us has a gift, however seemingly trivial, which is peculiar to him, and which, worthily used, will be a gift also to his race forever.

And often from that other world or this

Some gleams from great souls gone before may shine,
To shed on struggling hearts a clearer bliss
And clothe the truth with lustre more divine.

30. O death, where is thy sting?

1 Cor. xv. 55.

Tell those (children of God) that are drawing down to the bed of death, from my experience, that it has no terrors,—that in the hour when it is most wanted there is mercy with the Most High, and that some change takes place which fits the soul to meet its God.

SIR WILLIAM FORBES.

Thus! oh, not thus! No type of earth
Could image that awaking,
Wherein he scarcely heard the chants
Of seraphs round him breaking,

Or felt the new immortal throb
Of soul from body parted,
But felt *those eyes alone*, and knew
My Saviour! not deserted!

MRS. BROWNING.

31. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands; . . . but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. *Heb. ix. 24.*

No music like Aaron's bells. Mercy and propitiation through our great High-Priest sound sweetly to our purged ear.

ADAM.

See where our great High-Priest
Before the Lord appears,
And on his loving breast
The tribes of Israel bears:
Never without his people seen,
The head of all believing men.

CHARLES WESLEY.

AUGUST.

1. THE eyes of the Lord are in every
place. *Prov. xv. 3.*

God's omniscience is a light shining into every dark corner, ripping up all secrets and steadfastly grasping the greatest and most slippery uncertainties. As when we see the sun shine upon a river, though the waves of it move and roll this way and that way by the wind, yet, for all their unsettledness, the sun strikes them with a direct and certain beam. SOUTH.

What our dim eye could never see
Is plain and naked to thy sight ;
What thickest darkness veils, to thee
Shines clearly as the morning light.
In light thou dwell'st,—light that no shade,
No variation, ever knew :
Heaven, earth and hell stand all display'd
And open to thy piercing view.

JOHN WESLEY.

2. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. *Rom. viii. 18.*

Were the heart much upon the thoughts of that glory, what thing is there in this perishing world which could either lift it up or cast it down?

LEIGHTON.

Mourner, joy! an angel's pathway
 Brightens with thy treasured flower,
 Wings unseen its perfume bear thee,
 Sweetest in life's darkest hour.
 Christian, joy! no tie is broken;
 All love's strength thou may'st retain:
 God removes; but faith has spoken,
 Heaven shall yield thee all again!

3. Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. *1 Cor. vi. 20.*

God is Lord of my body also, and therefore challengeth as well reverent gesture as inward devotion. I will ever, in my prayer, either stand, as

a servant, before my Master, or kneel, as a subject,
to my Prince. HALL.

When once thy foot enters the church, be bare :
God is there more than thou ; for thou art there
Only by his permission. Then beware,
And make thyself all reverence and fear,
Kneeling, nice spoiled silk-stocking. Quit thy state :
All equal are within the church's gate.

HERBERT.

4. For we which have believed do
enter into rest. *Heb. iv. 3.*

A *present* rest,—the rest of *grace*, as well as the
rest of *glory*. Not only are there signals of peace
hung out from the walls of heaven,—the lights of
home glimmering in the distance to cheer our foot-
steps,—but we have the “shadow” of this “great
Rock” in a present “weary land.”

Oh that I now the rest might know,

Believe, and enter in !

Now, Saviour, now the power bestow,

And let me cease from sin.

CHARLES WESLEY.

5. And Enoch walked with God :
and he was not ; for God took
him. *Genesis v. 24.*

Solemn, affectionate and frequent converse with God in religious duties will render death not fearful to us. A Christian that walks with God here, when he leaves the world changes his room, but not his company. God was always with him on earth, and he shall be ever with God in heaven.

BATES.

Walk in the light: thy path shall be
 Peaceful, serene, and bright;
 For God, by grace, shall dwell in thee;
 And God himself is light.

BERNARD BARTON.

6. Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. 1 *Tim.* iv. 8.

The things of God and of religion are easy and sweet; they bear entertainment in their hand and reward at their back; their good is certain and perpetual, and they makè us cheerful to-day and pleasant to-morrow.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Still, still with thee, as to each new-born morning
 A fresh and solemn splendour still is given,
 So doth this blessed consciousness, awaking,
 Breathe each day nearness unto thee and heaven.

When sinks the soul, subdued by toil, to slumber
 Its closing eye looks up to thee in prayer ;
 Sweet the repose beneath thy wings o'ershading,
 But sweeter still to wake and find thee there.

MRS. STOWE.

7. Sorrow is better than laughter ;
 for by the sadness of the
 countenance the heart is made
 better. *Eccles. vii. 3.*

There is a sorrow the end whereof is joy ; and eternal laughter leadeth to destruction. It is better sometimes to steal from the gladness of the feast,—to stop the joy of the harp,—to quench the splendour of the lamp,—to put off the wedding-garment,—and to speak of the wretchedness of the grave. I must lie on my last bed. The day must come, but I know not when : the feet of them which have buried my kindred are at the door ; it may be that they shall carry me out.

Count each affliction, whether light or grave,
 God's messenger sent down to thee. Do thou
 With courtesy receive him ; rise, and bow ;
 And, ere his shadow pass thy threshold, crave
 Permission first his heavenly feet to lave.

AUBREY DE VERE.

8. And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.

Isaiah xxxii. 17.

It is peace the soul wants. Existence is one long-drawn sigh after repose.

So to the heart that knows thy love, O Purest!
 There is a temple sacred evermore,
 And all the babble of life's angry voices
 Dies in hush'd stillness at its peaceful door.

Far, far away, the roar of passion dieth,
 And loving thoughts rise calm and peacefully;
 And no rude storm, how fierce soe'er it flieth,
 Disturbs the soul that dwells, O Lord, in thee.

9. As for God, his way is perfect.

Psalms xviii. 30.

God's hand is as steady as his eye; and certainly thus to reduce contingency to method, instability and chance itself to an unfailing rule and order, argues such a mind as is fit to govern the world; and I am sure nothing less than such a one can.

SOUTH.

Those mighty orbs proclaim thy power ;
 Their motions speak thy skill ;
 And on the wings of every hour
 We read thy patience still.

10. Happy is that people that is in
 such a case ; yea, happy is that
 people whose God is the Lord.

Psalm cxliv. 15.

Oh, how happy are they whose hearts are not
 here, trading with vanity and gathering vexation,
 but whose thoughts are on that blessed life above
 trouble !

LEIGHTON.

Round each habitation hovering,
 See the cloud and fire appear,
 For a glory and a covering,
 Showing that the Lord is near.
 He who gives us daily manna,
 He who listens when we cry,
 Let him hear the loud Hosanna
 Rising to his throne on high.

NEWTON.

11. What I do, thou knowest not
 now ; but thou shalt know
 hereafter.

John xiii. 7.

An earthly child takes *on trust* what his father tells him: when he reaches maturity, much that was baffling to his infant comprehension is explained. Thou art in this world in the nonage of thy being. Eternity is the soul's immortal manhood.

Can loving children e'er reprove
 With murmurs whom they trust and love?
 Creator, I would ever be
 A trusting, loving child to thee:
 As comes to me or cloud or sun,
 Father, thy will—not mine—be done.

ADAMS.

12. There be many that say, Who will show us any good? Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.

Psalm iv. 6.

Riches, or beauty, or whatever worldly good hath been, doth but grieve us: that which is doth not satisfy us; that which shall be is uncertain. What folly is it to trust to any of them! HALL.

Lift up thy countenance serene,
 And let thy happy child
 Behold, without a cloud between,
 The Godhead reconciled.

CHARLES WESLEY.

13. Unite my heart to fear thy
name. *Psalm lxxxvi. 11.*

Then all our love, that is now scattered and parcelled out upon the vanities among which we are here, shall be united and gathered into one and fixed upon God, and the soul filled with the delight of his presence. LEIGHTON.

Take my poor heart, and let it be
Forever closed to all but thee;
Seal thou my heart, and let me wear
That pledge of love forever there.

JOHN WESLEY.

14. Oh that they were wise, that they
understood this, that they
would consider their latter
end! *Deut. xxxii. 29.*

To watch over the gradual waste of life, to minister to the last sickness, to mourn over friends that perish and children that are snatched away,—these things teach us all to repent: they are lessons to which every ear is open and by which all hearts are impressed.

Smitten friends

Are angels sent on errands full of love :
 For us they languish, and for us they die.
 And shall they languish, shall they die, in vain ?

YOUNG.

15. Oh, give thanks unto the God of
 heaven: for his mercy endureth
 forever. *Psalms cxxxvi. 26.*

Though angels were objects of God's *bounty*, yet man only is the object of his mercy; and the mercy which dwelt in an infinite circle became confined to a little ring, and dwelt here below, and here shall dwell below till it hath carried all God's portion up to heaven, where it shall reign and glory upon our crowned heads for ever and ever.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Thank and praise Jehovah's name ;
 For his mercies firm and sure
 From eternity the same
 To eternity endure.

MONTGOMERY.

16. As for man, his days are as
 grass: as a flower of the field,
 so he flourisheth. For the

wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

Psalm ciii. 15, 16.

If I die, the world shall miss me but a little; I shall miss it less. Not it me,—because it hath such store of better men; not I it,—because it hath so much ill and I shall have so much happiness.

HALL.

Thus still, whene'er the good and just
Close the dim eye on life and pain,
Heaven watches o'er their sleeping dust
Till the pure spirit comes again.

Though harmless, trampled, unforgot,
His servant's humble ashes lie,
Yet God has mark'd and seal'd the spot,
To call its inmate to the sky.

BRYANT.

17. Thy will be done. *Matt. xxvi. 42.*

We must suffer if he will; but if we will what he wills, even in suffering, that makes it sweet and easy,—when our mind goes along with his, and we willingly move with that stream of providence,

which will carry us with it even though we row against it,—in which case we still have nothing but toil and weariness for our pains. LEIGHTON.

I know that trial is his love
With but a graver face,
That veil'd in sorrow earthward move
The ministries of grace.
May none depart till I have gain'd
The blessing which it bears,
And learn, though late, I entertain'd
An angel unawares!

18. But man dieth, and wasteth
away: yea, man giveth up
the ghost, and where is he?

Job xiv. 10.

Oblivion is not to be hired: the greater part must be content to be as though they had not been,—to be found in the register of God, not in the record of man. Twenty-seven names make up the first story; and the recorded names ever since contain not one living century. The number of the dead long exceedeth all that shall live. Every hour adds unto that current arithmetic which scarce stands one moment.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

O'er them, and o'er their names, the billows close:
 To-morrow knows not they were ever born.
 Others a short memorial leave behind:
 Like a flag floating, when the bark's engulf'd,
 It floats a moment, and is seen no more.
 One Cæsar lives; a thousand are forgot.

YOUNG.

19. Can thine heart endure, or can
 thine hands be strong, in the
 days that I shall deal with
 thee? *Ezek. xxii. 14.*

Are heaven and hell such trivial things as to be
 left to an uncertainty? **BATES.**

How will my heart endure
 The terrors of that day,
 When earth and heaven before his face,
 Astonish'd, shrink away?

DODDRIDGE.

20. And the King shall answer and
 say unto them, Verily I say
 unto you, inasmuch as ye have
 done it unto one of the least
 of these my brethren, ye have
 done it unto me. *Matt. xxv. 40.*

The poor man's hand is the treasury of Christ.
 All my superfluity shall be there hoarded up, where
 I know it shall be safely kept and surely returned
 me. HALL.

Then in a moment to my view
 The stranger darted from disguise :
 The tokens in his hands I knew ;
 My Saviour stood before mine eyes.
 He spake; and my poor name he named :—
 “Of me thou hast not been ashamed :
 These deeds shall thy memorial be :
 Fear not, thou didst them unto me.”

MONTGOMERY.

21. The sons of God, without rebuke,
 in the midst of a crooked and
 perverse nation. *Phil. ii. 15.*

I believe that far more is done for Christ's kingdom by the holy living of believers than we are at all aware. There is a reality about such living which makes men feel and obliges them to think. It makes religion beautiful, and draws men to consider it,—like a light-house seen afar off. RYLE.

That wisdom, Lord, on us bestow,
 From every evil to depart,
 To stop the mouth of every foe,
 While, upright both in life and heart,

The proofs of godly fear we give,
And show them how the Christians live.

22. Go work to-day in my vine-
yard. *Matt. xxi. 28.*

This work has no measure but that of our sphere and that of our power: it begins with capability, and only with capability it concludes. When we walk forth on earth, then begins our labour; and our toil is not over until that warning comes which tells the strong equally with the feeble that their day is closed.

Up to thy Master's work! for thou art call'd
To do his bidding till the hand of death
Strike off thine armour.

23. While I was musing the fire
burned: then spake I with my
tongue. *Psalms xxxix. 3.*

Bossuet, before he sat down to compose a sermon, read a chapter in the prophet Isaiah, and another in Rodriguez's tract on Christian Perfection. The former fired his genius; the latter filled his heart.

Dominichino never offered to touch his pencil till he found a kind of enthusiasm or inspiration upon him.

HORNE.

My heart grows warm with holy fire
 And kindles with a pure desire :
 Come, blessed Jesus, from above,
 And fill my soul with heavenly love.

WATTS.

24. Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Matt. xxv. 11, 12.

Because they knew him not. "Lord, Lord" is nothing to him, without a faith to prize his benefits, a heart to love him, and a will to be governed by him.

ADAM.

Vain, alas, will be their plea,
 Workers of iniquity :
 Sad their everlasting lot :
 Christ will say, "I know you not."

25. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. 2 *Cor.* ix. 15.

Do you call it nothing to look forward to death without fear, and to judgment without doubtings, and to eternity without a sinking heart? Do you call it nothing to feel the world slipping from your grasp, and to see the grave getting ready for you and the valley of the shadow of death opening before your eyes, and yet not be afraid? Do you call it nothing to be able to think of the great day of account,—the throne, the books, the Judge, the assembled worlds, the revealing of secrets, the final sentence,—and yet to feel, “I am safe”? This is the portion, and this the privilege, of a forgiven soul.

RYLE.

The gift unspeakable
 We thankfully receive,
 And to the world thy goodness tell
 And to thy glory live.

C. WESLEY.

26. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Gal.* vi. 14.

Christian childhood, the Sunday-school, ministry to the poor, numberless other phases of life, have relation to a cross which eighteen hundred years ago was raised on Calvary, in the remote province of Judea.

In the cross of Christ I glory :
 Towering o'er the wrecks of time,
 All the light of sacred story
 Gathers round its head sublime.

BOWRING.

27. Redeeming the time. *Col. iv. 5.*

Bishop Andrews, when a lad at the university, used every year to visit his friends in London and to stay a month with them. During that month he constantly made it a rule to learn, by the help of a master, some language or art to which he was before a stranger. No time was lost. HORNE.

Redeem we time?—Its loss we dearly buy.

'Tis the good heart's prerogative to raise
 A royal tribute from the poorest hours :

Immense revenue! every moment pays.

YOUNG.

28. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.

Ephesians vi. 18.

Prayer is the very breath by which a regenerate man lives: the pulse of his heart beats strong with it, and it conveys health and nourishment to his soul.

ADAM.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
 The Christian's native air ;
 His watchword at the gate of death :
 He enters heaven with prayer.

MONTGOMERY.

29. For the arrows of the Almighty
 are within me, the poison
 whereof drinketh up my spirit:
 the terrors of God do set them-
 selves in array against me.

Job vi. 4.

Remorse is man's dread prerogative, and is the natural accompaniment of his constitution, as a knowing, voluntary agent left in trust with his own welfare and that of others. Remorse, if we exclude the notion of responsibility, is an enigma in human nature, never to be explained. ISAAC TAYLOR.

Is conscience, then,
 No part of nature? Is she not supreme?
 Virtue's foundations with the world were laid;
 Heaven mixed her with our make, and twisted close
 Her sacred interests with the strings of life.
 Who breaks her awful mandate shocks himself,
 His better self.

YOUNG.

30. Whether life, or death, or things present, or things to come, all are your's. 1 *Cor.* iii. 22.

When the apostle is drawing up a Christian's inventory, he reckons death as part of his goods. And well may a Christian count death among his gains, since it is the hand of death which draws the curtain of the great tabernacle and lets us in to see God face to face in that palace of inestimable majesty, where we shall see the strong rays of his glory beat full upon us and be ourselves made strong enough to bear them. HOPKINS.

And life is your's,—to give it all
To works of faith and love;
And death is your's,—a welcome call
To higher joys above.

31. [His mercies] are new every morning. *Lamentations* iii. 23.

Every life is a new life. Every day is a new day,—like nothing that ever went before or can ever follow after. ROBERTSON.

New time, new favours and new joys
Do a new song require:
Till we shall praise thee as we would,
Accept our heart's desire. MASON.

SEPTEMBER.

1. AMONG whom ye shine as lights
in the world. *Phil. ii. 15.*

As those that we call falling stars dart from heaven and draw after them long trains of light, so God would have us to shoot up to heaven, but yet to leave a train of light behind us. Our graces must shine always: we must go on in good works.

HOPKINS.

Heaven doth with us as we with torches do;
Not light them for themselves: for if our virtues
Did not go forth of us, 'twere all alike
As if we had them not.

SHAKSPEARE.

2. Train up a child in the way he
should go, and when he is old
he will not depart from it.

Prov. xxii. 6.

Training involves the idea of patient, protracted, incessant effort; of earnest, trustful prayer; of effective, intelligible, appropriating faith; of a holy, emphatic example; of a gentle, winning, loving spirit; of an obedient, all-embracing and intense piety, which should transform our homes into Bethels, and our hearths into holy consecrated altars, upon which incense and peace-offerings shall blaze evermore.

OLIN.

God gave a gift to earth :—a child,
 Weak, docile, and not yet defiled,
 Open'd its ignorant eyes and smiled.
 Earth bent her utmost art and skill
 To train the supple mind and will
 And guard it from a breath of ill.

She shed in rainbow hues of light
 A halo round the Good and Right,
 To tempt and charm the baby's sight.
 And every step of work or play
 Was lit by some such dazzling ray,
 Till morning brighten'd into day.

3. Walk in wisdom toward them
 that are without, redeeming
 the time. *Colossians iv. 5.*

Small portions of time, linked together by constancy of return and closeness of succession, will

form in months and years a noble amount of improvement.

JOHN PYE SMITH.

Every hour that fleets so slowly
 Has its task to do or bear :
 Luminous the crown, and holy,
 If thou set each gem with care.

4. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they
 may rest from their labours.

Rev. xiv. 13.

Christians! think but seriously with yourselves, that though your way be rugged and tiresome, yet it is a way that leads unto your Father's house: and though you come there all wet and weary,—wet with your tears and wearied with your burdens,—yet there you shall be surely welcome, and enjoy an eternity of rest: there you shall sit down, and, with everlasting joy, account to your brethren—a whole circle of surrounding saints—all the wonderful methods of divine Providence which brought you thither.

HOPKINS.

But love, whose speechless ecstasy
 Had overborne the finite, now
 Throbs through thy being pure and free
 And burns upon thy radiant brow

For thou those hands' dear touch hast felt,
 Where still the nail-prints are display'd,
 And thou before that face hast knelt
 Which wears the scars the thorns have made!

5. For a day in thy courts is better
 than a thousand. I had rather
 be a door-keeper in the house
 of my God, than to dwell in
 the tents of wickedness.

Psalm lxxxiv. 10.

I have lived to see five princes, and have been privy-counsellor to four of them. I have seen the most remarkable things in foreign parts, and have been present at most State transactions for thirty years together. Were I to live again, I would exchange this court for a cloister, my privy-counsellor's bustle for a hermit's retirement, and the whole life I have lived in the palace for an hour's enjoyment of God in this chapel.

SIR JOHN MASON.

Go, man of pleasure, strike the lyre:
 Of Sabbaths broken sing the charms:
 Ours are the prophet's ear of fire
 Which bear us to a Father's arms.

CUNNINGHAM.

6. For so he giveth his beloved
sleep. *Psalm cxxvii. 2.*

The Rev. Robert Anderson, shortly before his death, dwelt much upon the delicious dreams he had, saying, "How good it is of God to send them! They are such as I used to have as a child: I have been walking through green meadows, by fresh streams, and under the shade of lovely green trees."

"Sleep soft, beloved!" we sometimes say,
But have no tune to charm away
Sad dreams that through the eyelids creep;
But never doleful dream again
Shall break the happy slumber, when
"He giveth his beloved sleep."

BROWNING.

7. The hope of glory. *Colossians i. 27.*

Heavenly hope gives real contentment and satisfaction: it antedates our glory, and puts us into the possession of our inheritance whilst we are yet in our nonage.

HOPKINS.

One sweetly solemn thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er:
I'm nearer home to-day
Than I've ever been before;

Nearer my Father's house,
 Where the many mansions be;
 Nearer the great white throne,
 Nearer the jasper sea.

8. Charge them that are rich in this world, . . . that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate. 1 *Tim.* vi. 17, 18.

The claims of charity are laid even now, and under the divinest sanctions, not literally at the rich man's gate, but at the door of his conscience. There are few who can always pass by on the other side.

If I have turn'd away
 From grief or sufferings which I might relieve,
 Careless "the cup of water" e'en to give,
 Forgive me, Lord, I pray.

E. L. E.

9. They took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Acts iv. 13.

The best way, after all, of making the world *feel* more of our religion is to *have* more of it.

ARNOTT.

Strive we in affection, strive;
 Let the purer flame revive,
 Such as in the martyrs glow'd,
 Dying champions for their God:
 We for Christ, our Master, stand,
 Lights in a benighted land;
 We our dying Lord confess;
 We are Jesus' witnesses.

CHARLES WESLEY.

10. Tribulation worketh patience.

Rom. v. 3.

All birds, when they are first caught and put into their cage, fly wildly up and down and beat themselves against their little prison, but within two or three days sit quietly upon their perch and sing their usual notes, with their usual melody. So it fares with us: when God first brings us into straits, we wildly flutter up and down and beat and tire ourselves with striving to get free; but at length custom and experience will make our narrow confinement spacious enough for us, and though our feet should be in the stocks, yet shall we, with the apostles, be able even there to sing praises to our God.

The rack, the cross, life's weary wrench of woe,
 The world sees not, as slow, from day to day,
 In calm, unspoken patience, sadly still,
 The loving spirit bleeds itself away.

But there are hours when from the heavens unfolding
 Come down the angels with the glad release,
 And we look upward to behold in glory
 Our suffering loved ones borne away in peace.

11. Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.

Eph. iv. 1.

What a calming, elevating, solemnizing view of the tasks which we find ourselves set in this world to do, this word [vocation] would give us, if we did but realize it to the full. We did not come to our work by accident; we did not choose it for ourselves; but, under much which may wear the appearance of accident and self-choosing, came to it by God's leading and appointment. TRENCH.

What matter what the path shall be?

The end is clear and bright to view:

We know that we a strength shall see,

Whate'er the day may bring to do;

We see the end,—the house of God,—

But not the path to that abode;

For God through ways they have not known

Will lead his own

12. Ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 *Pet.* v. 4.

It shall be forever as glorious, orient and flourishing as it was at its first putting on. Indeed, eternity will be the perpetual beginning of thy happiness.

HOPKINS.

See there the starry crown
That glitters through the skies;
Satan, the world, and sin tread down,
And take the glorious prize.

CHARLES WESLEY.

13. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

Psalms civ. 24.

If the God of love is most appropriately worshipped in the Christian temple, the God of nature may be equally honoured in the temple of science. Even from its lofty minarets the philosopher may summon the faithful to prayer, and the priest and the sage may exchange altars without the compromise of faith or of knowledge.

SIR DAVID BREWSTER.

Philosophy baptized

In the pure fountain of eternal love
Has eyes indeed ;

Piety has found

Friends in the friends of science ; and true prayer
Has flow'd from lips wet with Castalian dews.

COWPER.

14. The lips of the wise disperse
knowledge. *Prov. xv. 7.*

Language is the amber in which a thousand precious and subtle thoughts have been safely imbedded and preserved. It has arrested ten thousand lightning flashes of genius, which, unless thus fixed and arrested, might have been as bright, but would have also been as quickly passing and perishing, as the lightning.

TRENCH.

Thoughts disentangle passing o'er the lip :
Clean runs the thread ; if not, 'tis thrown away.
Speech, thought's canal ! speech, thought's criterion too !
Thought in the mine may come forth gold or dross ;
When coin'd in words, we know its real worth :
If sterling, store it for thy future use ;
'Twill buy thee benefit, — perhaps renown.

YOUNG.

15. The Lord hath made all things
for himself; yea, even the
wicked for the day of evil.

Prov. xvi. 4.

To the man who looks unbelievably upon Divine Providence, the world's history is a problem that can never be solved.

MORELL.

'Tis immortality your nature solves;
'Tis immortality deciphers man
And opens all the mysteries of his make.
Without it, half his instincts are a riddle;
Without it, all his virtues are a dream.

YOUNG.

16. Pray without ceasing.

1 *Thess. v. 17.*

If your hearts and affections be heavenly, your thoughts will force out a passage, through the crowd and tumult of worldly businesses, to heaven. Ejaculations are swift messengers, which require not much time to perform their errands in.

HOPKINS.

Pray without ceasing, pray,
(Your Captain gives the word;)
His summons cheerfully obey,
And call upon the Lord:

To God your every want
In instant prayer display :
Pray always ; pray, and never faint ;
Pray, without ceasing pray.

CHARLES WESLEY.

17. In the fear of the Lord is strong
confidence : and his children
shall have a place of refuge.

Prov. xiv. 26.

Indisputably, the firm believers in the gospel have a great advantage over all others, for this simple reason :—that if true, they will have their reward hereafter ; and if there be no hereafter, they can be but with the infidel in his eternal sleep, having had the assistance of an exalted hope through life, without subsequent disappointment.

Father, perfect my trust ;
Strengthen the might of my faith ;
Let me feel as I would when I stand
On the rock of the shore of death.

18. So shall we ever be with the
Lord.

1 Thess. iv. 17.

God shall be eternally there, and thou shalt be eternally there; he will be eternally glancing and smiling on thee, and thou shalt be eternally warming and cheering thyself in that sunshine.

HOPKINS.

Knowing as I am known,
 How shall I love that word,
 And oft repeat, before the throne,
 "Forever with the Lord!"

MONTGOMERY.

19. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Matt. xii. 34.

The secret or mystery of God's mercy through Christ is too great to be confined within our own bosom: we should in vain strive to hide it: it would force its way to our lips, because it is always in our hearts. It is the most natural subject on which our tongues can be employed: we believe, and we cannot help speaking of it.

ARNOLD.

We'll talk of all he did and said
 And suffer'd for us here below,—
 The path he mark'd for us to tread,
 And what he's doing for us now.

NEWTON.

20. Mine eyes prevent the night-watches, that I might meditate in thy word.

Psalm cxix. 148.

In a starry night, if you cast your eyes upon many spaces of the heavens, at the first glance perhaps you shall discover no stars there; yet, if you continue to look earnestly and fixedly, some will emerge to your view that were before hidden and concealed. So is it with the Holy Scriptures: if we only glance curiously upon them, no wonder we discover no more stars, no more glorious truths beaming out their light to our understanding.

HOPKINS.

What glory gilds the sacred page!

Majestic like the sun,

It gives a light to every age;

It gives, but borrows none.

COWPER.

21. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness.

1 *Tim.* iii. 16.

A religion without its mysteries is like a temple without its God.

ROBERT HALL.

'Tis mystery all:—the Immortal dies!
 Who can explore his strange design?
 In vain the first-born seraph tries
 To sound the depths of love divine:
 'Tis mercy all! let earth adore;
 Let angel minds inquire no more.

CHARLES WESLEY.

22. For thy mercy is great above
 the heavens: and thy truth
 reacheth unto the clouds.

Psalm cviii. 4.

Our prayers and God's mercy are like two buckets
 in a well; while the one ascends, the other descends:
 so while our prayers ascend to God in heaven, his
 mercies and blessings descend down upon us.

For his truth and mercy stand,
 Past and present and to be,
 Like the years of his right hand,
 Like his own eternity.

MONTGOMERY.

23. All flesh is grass, and all the good-
 liness thereof is as the flower
 of the field. The grass wither-
 eth, the flower fadeth.

Isa. xl. 6, 7.

How sad, yet how expressive, is the scriptural phrase for indicating death! "He shall return to his house no more." And this is what all our houses are coming to: our buying, our planting, our building, our marrying and giving in marriage, our genial firesides and joyous children, are all like so many figures passing through the magic-lantern, to be put out at last in death.

Ah, Rose, that dost sweet odours give,
Whose bloom is fair to see,
How short a life hast thou to live!
But mine more brief may be.

Death may make me at once his prey,
Ere time shall farther fly:
Thou, Rose, wilt fade within a day,
I may this moment die.

ABBÉ DE LA CHASSAGNE.

24. Blessed be the Lord God of
Israel from everlasting to ever-
lasting: and let all the people
say, Amen. *Psalm cvi. 48.*

Amen is a wing to our prayers; it is the bow that shoots them up to heaven.

And dear to me the loud Amen
 Which echoes through the blest abode,
 Which swells, and sinks, and swells again,
 Dies on the walls, but lives to God.

CUNNINGHAM.

25. In the way of righteousness is
 life; and in the pathway
 thereof there is no death.

Prov. xii. 28.

A conviction that I have,—that, when we appear
 to die, we only change one life for another.

Who knows if that call'd death be not our life,
 And this our life be death?

EURIPIDES.

26. Knowing, brethren beloved, your
 election of God. 1 *Thess. i. 4.*

Labour for an assured hope of glory. This will
 make thy passage into eternity lightsome and joyful.
 When thou and all things in the world must take
 leave and part forever, then to have the sense of
 the love of God and our interest in Christ and our
 title to eternal life will sweetly bear up our hearts

in a dying hour. These are things which are as immortal as thy soul is, and will enter heaven with thee and abide with thee to all eternity.

Espoused Lord of the pure saints in glory,
To whom all faithful souls affianced are,
Breathe down thy peace into our restless spirits,
And make a lasting heavenly vision there.

So the bright gates no more on us shall close;
No more the cloud of angels fade away,
And we shall walk amid life's weary strife
In the calm light of thine eternal day.

27. Those that seek me early shall
find me. *Prov. viii. 17.*

Happy are they who rise early in the morning of their youth; for the day of life is very short and the art of Christianity long and difficult.

LEIGHTON.

By cool Siloam's shady rill
How sweet the lily grows!
How sweet the breath, beneath the hill,
Of Sharon's dewy rose!

Lo! such the child whose early feet
The paths of peace have trod,—
Whose secret heart, with influence sweet,
Is upward drawn to God.

HEBER.

28. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him, but God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.

1 *Cor.* ii. 9, 10.

If earth, that is provided for mortality and is possessed by the Maker's enemies, have so much pleasure in it that worldlings think it worth the account of their heaven,—what must heaven needs be, that is provided for God himself and his friends! How can it be less in worth than God is above his creatures and God's friends better than his enemies? I will not only be content, but desirous, to be dissolved.

HALL.

He keeps his own secure ;

He guards them by his side,—

Arrays in garments white and pure

His spotless bride ;

With groves of living joys,

With streams of sacred bliss,

With all the fruits of Paradise,

He still supplies.

29. I am the good Shepherd.

John x. 14.

Still that tender eye of watchfulness following the guilty wanderers,—the glories of heaven and the songs of angels unable to dim or alter his affection,—the music of the words at this moment coming as sweetly from his lips as when first he uttered them,—“I know my sheep.”

Thou Shepherd of Israel and mine,
 The joy and desire of my heart,
 For closer communion I pine:
 I long to reside where thou art.
 'Tis there, with the lambs of thy flock,
 There only, I covet to rest,—
 To lie at the foot of the rock,
 Or rise to be hid in thy breast.

CHARLES WESLEY.

30. And I will very gladly spend
and be spent for you.*2 Cor.* xii. 15.

If the sculptor spends years in toil to shape hard marble into grace, and then dies contented, what should not a man be willing to bear and do when it is a deathless spirit he forms to immortal loveliness!

They watch for souls, for which the Lord
 Did heavenly bliss forego,—
 For souls, which must forever live
 In raptures or in woe. DODDRIDGE.

OCTOBER.

1. THIS one thing I do. *Phil.* iii. 13.

Every man might be more useful and happy than he is, if he would be contented to be about one thing.

ADAM.

Whate'er pursuits my time employ,
One thought shall fill my soul with joy :
That silent, secret thought shall be
That all my thoughts are fix'd on thee.

OBERLIN.

2. I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. *Isaiah* liv. 8.

So much as moments are exceeded by eternity, and the sighing of a man by the joys of an angel, and a salutary frown by the light of God's countenance, a few groans by the infinite and eternal

hallelujahs,—so much are the sorrows of the godly to be undervalued in respect of what is deposited for them in the treasures of eternity. Their sorrows can die; but so cannot their joys.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Thy sky is overcast;
 Yet stars shall rise at last,
 Brighter for darkness past,
 And angels' silver voices stir the air.

3. The unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice. 2 *Tim.* i. 5.

How often in old age have I valued those divine passages of experimental divinity that I heard from the lips of a mother!

HALL.

Blest mother! who in wisdom's path,
 By her own parent trod,
 Thus taught her son to flee the wrath
 And know the fear of God:
 Ah! youth, like him enjoy your prime;
 Begin eternity in time,
 Taught by that mother's love.

MONTGOMERY.

4. There is . . . another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. *1 Cor. xv. 41, 42.*

Mrs. East, with "a look of dazzling and indescribable lustre," said, at midnight, "He made the stars also," sank into sleep, and never awoke again!

BURGESS.

Our Christ hath reach'd his heavenly seat,
Through sorrows and through scars;
The golden lamps are at his feet,
And in his hand the stars.

5. Your heart shall live that seek
God. *Psalm lxix. 32.*

All our life is a search: we are a race of seekers. With some of us the aim is consciously taken, is dear, is fixed, and embraces in one the perfecting of character and the glory of God. These—call them by whatever name, of whatever sect, of whatever nation or rank—are the men that God loves and honours. They are the saints, modern or ancient,

—as good, if they walk our streets to-day, as if they held sweet counsel with Fénelon in Cambray, or knelt with St. Cecilia, or wept with Paul on the shores of Melitus.

That path with humble speed I'll seek
In which my Saviour's footsteps shine,
Nor will I hear, nor will I speak,
Of any other love but thine.

JOHN WESLEY.

6. Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.

Eccles. xi. 9.

Youth is a dream of gladness which comes but to vanish: it is sweet as a smile that perishes: it is bright and rapid as the arrows of God when he shooteth his lightning in the heavens.

O Father, guide
 The youthful traveller in the dangerous hour ;
 Save him from evil and temptation's power,
 And keep him near thy side.

7. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation. *Rev. v. 9.*

This very humiliation will give to our happiness in heaven a tone that will elevate us above the highest archangel there. The angels can sing the *air*, but cannot from their own experience send forth the deep notes which will soften and enlarge and complete *our* songs. In fact, they can only add an Amen to the song which we sing. SIMEON.

Sing we the song of those who stand
 Before the eternal throne,
 Of every kindred, clime and land,
 A multitude unknown.

MONTGOMERY.

8. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. *Romans vi. 22.*

Christ comes with a blessing in each hand,—forgiveness in one and holiness in the other; and never gives either to any one who will not take both.

Fully in my life express
All the heights of holiness;
Sweetly let my spirit prove
All the depths of humble love.

CHARLES WESLEY.

9. Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together. *Isaiah xlvi. 13.*

He that created something out of nothing surely can raise great things out of small, and bring

all the scattered and disordered passages of affairs into a great, beautiful and exact frame. SOUTH.

With glory clad, with strength array'd,
The Lord that o'er all nature reigns
The world's foundations strongly laid,
And the vast fabric still sustains.

TATE AND BRADY.

10. Let your loins be girded about.

Luke xii. 35.

Let us, then, remember our way, and where we are, and keep our garments girt up; for we walk amid thorns and briers, which, if we let them down, will entangle and stop us and possibly tear our garments.

LEIGHTON.

May our light be always burning
And our loins be girded round,
Waiting for our Lord's returning,
Longing for the welcome sound.

FORD.

11. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

Heb. x. 35.

In the contemplation of eternity, that which is broken is bound up, that which is lost is restored, that which is quenched is lighted again; the parent looks for his lost child across the great gulf; the soul, filled with holy wishes, lifts itself up to the Great Author of our being, who has sanctified and redeemed us by the blood of Christ, who has given cheerfulness and dignity to our existence and made the short agonies of death a sure prelude to immortal life.

And he will come in his own time and power,
To set his earnest-hearted children free:
Watch only through this dark and painful hour,
And the bright morning yet shall break for thee.

12. Having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better. *Phil. i. 23.*

How joyful should death be to a saint, that comes like the dove in the evening, to assure him the deluge of misery is ceased and the time is come of his enlargement from the body, his deliverance from the wretched sinful society here, and his possessing the divine world!

BATES.

'Tis good at thy word to be here;
 'Tis better in thee to be gone
 And see thee in glory appear,
 And rise to a share in thy throne.

CHARLES WESLEY.

13. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James v. 16.

Every good prayer knocketh at heaven for a blessing; but an importunate prayer pierceth it, though as hard as brass, and makes way for itself into the ears of the Almighty. And as it ascends lightly up, carried with the wings of faith, so it comes ever laden down again upon our heads.

HALL.

Prayer makes the darken'd cloud withdraw;
 Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw,
 Gives exercise to faith and love,
 Brings every blessing from above.

COWPER.

14. I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

Psalms cxix. 32.

All love of other things doth pinch and contract the heart; for they are all narrower than itself. It is framed to that wideness in its first creation, capable of enjoying God, though not of a full comprehending of him. Therefore all other things gather it in and straiten it from its natural size; only the love of God stretches and dilates it.

LEIGHTON.

Patient th' appointed race to run,
 This weary world we cast behind;
 From strength to strength we travel on,
 The new Jerusalem to find.

CHARLES WESLEY.

15. Be not afraid, only believe.

Mark v. 36.

In the dark river a sustaining arm will be underneath you, deeper than the deepest and darkest wave. Ere you know it, the darkness will be past, the true light shining, the whisper of faith in the nether valley, "Believe! Believe!" exchanged for angel-voices, exclaiming, as you enter the portals of glory, "No longer through a glass darkly, but now face to face!"

Prisoners of hope, be strong, be bold;
 Cast off your doubts, disdain to fear;

Dare to believe ; on Christ lay hold ;
 Wrestle with Christ in mighty prayer ;
 Tell him, We will not let thee go
 Till we thy name, thy nature, know.

CHARLES WESLEY.

16. He that soweth to the Spirit
 shall of the Spirit reap life
 everlasting. *Gal. vi. 8.*

Good deeds are very fruitful. Out of one good action of ours God produceth a thousand,—the harvest whereof is perpetual. My principal care shall be, that while my soul lives in glory in heaven my good actions may live upon earth ; and that they might be put into the bank and multiply while my body lies in the grave and consumeth.

HALL.

The harvest-dawn is near,
 The year delays not long,
 And he who sows with many a tear
 Shall reap with many a song.
 Sad to his toil he goes,
 His seed with weeping leaves ;
 But he shall come at twilight's close
 And bring his golden sheaves.

BURGESS.

17. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins.

1 *John* iii. 5.

The longer thou dost live without Christ, the more grains dost thou collect to make the mountain of thy sins higher.

LUTHER.

Our sins on Christ were laid;
He bore the mighty load;
Our ransom-price he fully paid
In groans and tears and blood.

FAWCETT.

18. Thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

Psalm xxxvi. 8.

A pleasure how rational and angelical! A pleasure made for the soul, and the soul for that,—suitable to its spirituality and equal to all its capacities. A pleasure that a man may call as properly his own as his soul and his conscience,—neither liable to accident nor exposed to injury. It is the foretaste of heaven and the earnest of eternity.

SOUTH.

There is a stream whose gentle flow
Supplies the city of our God,—
Life, love and joy still gliding through
And watering our divine abode.

That sacred stream—thy holy word—
 Our grief allays, our fear controls;
 Sweet peace thy promises afford
 And give new strength to fainting souls.

WATTS.

19. And the Lord said, If I find in
 Sodom fifty righteous within
 the city, then I will spare all
 the place for their sakes.

Gen. xviii. 26.

The saints are usually the scorn and contempt of others; yet are they, by that love the Lord carries towards them, the very arches and pillars of State, —yea, of the world, the frame whereof is continued mainly in regard to them.

LEIGHTON.

Perhaps the self-approving, haughty world—
 That, as she sweeps him with her whistling silks,
 Scarce deigns to notice him, or, if she see,
 Deems him a cipher in the works of God—
 Receives advantage from his noiseless hours
 Of what she little dreams. Perhaps she owes
 Her sunshine and her rain, her blooming spring
 And plenteous harvest, to the prayer he makes
 When, Isaac-like, the solitary saint
 Walks forth to meditate at even-tide
 And think on her who thinks not for herself.

COWPER.

20. Charge them that are rich in this world . . . that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come.

1 *Tim.* vi. 17-19.

Riches are an excellent instrument in doing good. Gold is the most precious and extensive metal, and by a marvellous art an ounce may be beaten out into some hundred leaves; but it is a more happy art by giving it to enrich our souls and supply the necessities of many others.

BATES.

Upon your bounty's willing wings
 Swift let the great salvation fly;
 The hungry feed, the naked clothe,
 To pain and sickness help apply.

RIPPON.

21. I am a stranger in the earth:
 hide not thy commandments
 from me.

Psalm cxix. 19.

I am a stranger even at home : therefore if the dogs of the world bark at me I neither care nor wonder.

HALL.

I'm but a stranger here ;
 Heaven is my home :
 Earth is a desert drear ;
 Heaven is my home :
 Danger and sorrow stand
 Round me on every hand ;
 Heaven is my father-land,—
 Heaven is my home.

22. What shall the end be of them
 that obey not the gospel of
 God?

1 *Peter* iv. 17.

There is no speaking of it : a curtain is drawn : silent wonder expresses it best,—telling that it cannot be expressed. How, then, shall it be endured ? It is true that there be resemblances used in Scripture giving us some glance of it. We hear of a burning lake, a fire that is not quenched and a worm that dies not. But these are but shadows to the real misery of them that obey not the gospel. Oh, to be filled with the wrath of God—the ever-living God—forever ! What words or thoughts can reach it ? Oh, eternity, eternity ! Oh that we did believe it !

LEIGHTON.

Ah, that day! that day of weeping,
 When, in dust no longer sleeping,
 Man to God in guilt is going:
 Lord, be then thy mercy showing.

23. So he bringeth them unto their
 desired haven. *Psalm cvii. 30.*

It might have been with thee the moanings of an
 eternal night-blast,—no lull or pause in the storm;
 but soon the darkness will be past and the hues of
 morn be tipping the shores of glory.

Our Father, we look up to thee
 As on toward the haven we roll,
 And faith in our Pilot shall be
 An anchor to steady the soul.

H. F. GOULD.

24. Man is born unto trouble, as
 the sparks fly upward.

Job v. 7.

Every man hath his turn of sorrow, whereby—
 some more, some less—all men are in their times
 miserable. Before sorrow comes I will prepare for
 it: when it is come, I will welcome it: when it goes,
 I will take but half a farewell of it, as still ex-
 pecting his return.

HALL.

The springs have gone by in sorrow,
 The summers were grieved away,
 And ever we fear'd to-morrow
 And ever we blamed to-day.
 In depths which the searcher sounded,
 On hills which the high heart clomb,
 Have toil and trouble abounded:—
 But, friends, we are going home!

FRANCES BROWN.

25. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory.

2 *Cor.* iii. 18.

Let the image of your Lord, wherein you are renewed, grow clearer and sharper every month. Let it not be like the image and superscription on a coin,—more indistinct and defaced the longer it is used. Let it rather become more plain the older it is, and the likeness of your King stand out more fully.

RYLE.

Father of eternal grace,
 Glorify thyself in me;
 Sweetly beaming in my face
 May the world thine image see!

CHARLES WESLEY.

26. Riches and honour are with me;
yea, durable riches and right-
eousness. *Prov. viii. 18.*

He that is much in prayer shall grow rich in grace. He shall thrive and increase most who is busiest in this, which is our very traffic with heaven, and fetches the most precious commodities thence. He who sends oftenest out these ships of desire, who makes the most voyages to that land of spices and pearls, shall be sure to improve his stock most and have most of heaven on earth. LEIGHTON.

Wisdom divine! who tells the price
Of wisdom's costly merchandise!
Wisdom to silver we prefer,
And gold is dross, compared to her.

CHARLES WESLEY.

27. For I know that thou wilt bring
me to death, and to the house
appointed for all living.

Job xxx. 23.

On the Sabbath every man ought to think of death,—not to think of death languidly, but to bring it in bold relief before his eyes; to gaze at it as if he were hereafter to meet it, and to learn from that

effort of his mind the most difficult and the most sublime of all lessons. This is the season in which we are called on to fling off the drapery of the world, to forget we are powerful, to forget we are young, to forget we are rich, to pass over all the scenes of life till we get at the last, and to remember only that we must die and be judged by the Son of God.

SYDNEY SMITH.

Oh, ne'er will I at life repine :
Enough that thou hast made it mine.
When falls the shadow cold of death,
I yet will sing, with parting breath,
As comes to me or shade or sun,
"Father! thy will, not mine, be done."

ADAMS.

28. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.

Acts xvi. 31.

Man's idea is to amend and turn over a new leaf, and so work his way up to reconciliation and friendship with God: the gospel way is first to be friends with God through Christ, and then to work. Man's idea is to toil up the hill and find life *at the top*: the gospel way is first to live by faith in Christ, and then to do his will.

KYLE.

Believe on Him who died for thee;
 And, sure as he hath died,
 Thy debt is paid, thy soul is free
 And thou art justified.

29. Enter thou into the joy of thy
 Lord. *Matt. xxv. 21.*

It is but little we can receive here,—some drops of joy that enter into us; but in heaven we shall enter into joy as vessels put into a sea of happiness.

Out of my lost home, dark and cold,
 I shall pass to the city whose streets are gold,
 From the silence that falls upon sin and pain,
 To the deathless joy of the angels' strain;
 Well shall be ended that ill begun,—
Out of the shadow into the sun.

30. Beloved, let us love one another:
 for love is of God; and every
 one that loveth is born of God,
 and knoweth God. *1 John iv. 7.*

Love is the great wheel of the soul, that sets all the rest moving, and makes it, like the chariots of Amminadib, to run swiftly towards its desired objects.

HOPKINS.

God only knows the love of God :
Oh that it now were shed abroad
 In this poor, stony heart !
For love I sigh, for love I pine :
This only portion, Lord, be mine,
 Be mine this better part.

31. For I reckon that the sufferings
of this present time are not
worthy to be compared with
the glory which shall be re-
vealed in us. *Rom. viii. 18.*

It is the high privilege of every good man to go forth under this inspiring and assured conviction ; and that if he is led on by an invisible hand through the deepest waters and the hottest fires, it only betokens a more splendid triumph and a higher destiny, and should admonish him to lift up from depths that have come over his soul a louder cry unto God, and to urge through the thick clouds beyond which the divine presence dwells, the acclamations of a braver faith.

By the thorn-road, and none other,
Is the mount of vision won :
Tread it without shrinking, brother !
Jesus trod it. Press thou on !

NOVEMBER.

1. GIVE us day by day our daily
bread. *Luke xi. 3.*

This is the desire of simple, necessary want; and, so far as it is such, it is the universal prayer of living nature. It goes up forever, from all regions of earth's animate existence; it is a grand perpetual supplication, sounding through land, through ocean and through air. What a mighty conjugation is that which calls on God for supply, in which supply their life consists!

All his creatures God doth feed;
His full hand supplies their need:
Let us therefore warble forth
His high magistracy and worth.

MILTON.

2. And he called unto him the
twelve, and began to send
them forth by two and two.

Mark vi. 7.

Bees never work singly, but always in companies, that they may assist each other. A useful hint to scholars and Christians.

Help us to help each other, Lord,
 Each other's cross to bear ;
 Let each his friendly aid afford
 And feel his brother's care.

3. Even so it is not the will of your
 Father which is in heaven,
 that one of these little ones
 should perish. *Matt. xviii. 14.*

It is so facile a part of religion as he that hath a tongue can scarce miss it. It is as easy to say, "Our Father which art in heaven," as to see heaven, which is always in our eye. JEREMY TAYLOR.

To thee, O Lord, my tender years
 A trembling duty paid,
 With glimpses of the mighty God
 Delighted and afraid.

From parent's eye and paths of men
 Thy touch I ran to meet ;
 It swell'd the hymn and seal'd the prayer :
 'Twas calm and strange and sweet !

C. WESLEY.

4. Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Rev. iii. 20.

Christ never comes into the soul unattended. He brings the Holy Spirit with him, and the Spirit his train of gifts and graces. Lay the foundation in him, and leave it to him to raise God's building.

ADAM.

Welcome, bright guest of heaven!

Lo, at the outward threshold of my door

I kneel to thee with grace unknown before:

Thy knock my heart hath riven!

I know thee who thou art!

Spirit of my ascended Lord and King!

Enter, possess, and rule!—let me thee bring

Within my heart of hearts!

5. And I heard a voice from heaven,
as the voice of many waters,
and as the voice of a great

thunder: and I heard the voice
of harpers harping with their
harps: and they sung as it
were a new song before the
throne.

Rev. xiv. 2, 3.

It may be boldly assumed that nothing in the whole compass of nature bears so near a resemblance as music to the celestial mode of thanksgiving.

Sounds of sweet melody fall on my ear;
Harps of the blessed, your voices I hear!
Rings with the harmony heaven's high dome;
Joyfully, joyfully, haste to thy home!

6. If I regard iniquity in my heart,
the Lord will not hear me.

Psalm lxvi. 18.

What more need be said of prayer, than that it brings God into the heart and keeps sin out?

ADAM.

One thing, dear Lord, I dread,—
To have a secret spot,
That separates my soul from thee,
And yet to know it not.

FABER.

7. Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness.

Col. i. 11.

God, who in mercy and wisdom governs the world, would never have suffered so many sadnesses and have sent them especially to the most virtuous and the wisest men, but that he intends they should be the seminary of comfort, the nursery of virtue, the exercise of wisdom, the trial of patience, the venturing for a crown and the gate of glory.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Patience, poor soul! the Saviour's feet were worn,
The Saviour's heart and hands were weary too,
His garments stain'd and travel-worn and old,
His vision blinded with a pitying dew.

Love thou the path of sorrow that he trod;
Toil on, and wait in patience for thy rest:
O city of our God! we soon shall see
Thy glorious walls, home of the loved and blest!

8. Delight thyself also in the Lord;
and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalm xxxvii. 4.

Heaven is wherever God is,—in my heart if I desire it and delight in his presence. ADAM.

O Rest of rests! O Peace serene, eternal!
 Thou ever livest, and thou changest never,
 And in the secret of thy presence dwelleth
 Fulness of joy forever and forever.

9. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John iii. 19.

There is light enough for those who sincerely wish to see, and darkness enough for those of an opposite description. PASCAL.

Stay with us, Lord, and with thy light
 Illume the soul's abyss;
 Scatter the darkness of our night
 And fill the world with bliss.

LYRA CATHOLICA.

10. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

Jer. xxix. 12.

When we wait upon God, we are still mounting up higher and higher as with eagles' wings: we walk first without fainting, and then run without wearying; at last we fly as an eagle and make haste to the fuller possession of our God.

WATTS.

Thyself amid the silence clear,
 The world far off and dim,
 Thy vision free, the Bright One near,
 Thyself alone with him.

The silence thronged gloriously
 With business how divine!
 God's glory passing unto thee,
 All heaven becoming thine.

GILL.

11. Into thine hand I commit my
 Spirit: thou hast redeemed
 me, O Lord God of truth.

Psalm xxxi. 5.

There was a grand thought in that saying of a believer of the primitive stamp:—"I do not want to possess a faith: I want a faith that shall possess me." The safest strength of the heart is the feeling of complete dependence.

HUNTINGTON.

Into His hands commit thy trembling spirit
 Who gave his life for thine,

Guilty, fix all thy trust upon his merit ;
 To him thy heart resign :
 Oh, give him love for love, and sweetly fall
 Into His hands who is thy all.

JOSIAH CONDER.

12. And, beginning to sink, he cried,
 saying, Lord, save me.

Matt. xiv. 30.

The journey through life is as Peter's walking on the water; and, if Christ does not reach out his hand, we are every moment in danger of sinking.

ADAM.

Thy way is in the deep, O Lord!
 E'en there we'll go with thee :
 We'll meet the tempest at thy word
 And walk upon the sea!

A moment may his hand be lost,—
 Dear moment of delay!
 We cry, "Lord, help the tempest-tost,"
 And safe we're borne away.

13. Boast not thyself of to-morrow ;
 for thou knowest not what a
 day may bring forth.

Prov. xxvii. 1.

This day is mine and your's; but ye know not what shall be on the morrow; and every morning creeps out of a dark cloud, leaving behind it an ignorance and silence deep as midnight.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

To-morrow, Lord, is thine,
 Lodged in thy sovereign hand;
 And if its sun arise and shine,
 It shines by thy command.
 The present moment flies,
 And bears our life away:
 Oh, make thy servants truly wise,
 That they may live to-day.

14. And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

John ii. 2.

We need not wonder to find the Lord of life at that festival; for he came to sanctify all life,—its times of joy as its times of sorrow; and all experience tells us that it is times of gladness which especially need such a sanctifying power, such a presence of the Lord.

FRENCH.

Come, visit us! and when dull work
 Grows weary, line on line,
 Revive our souls, and let us see
 Life's water turn'd to wine.

Gay mirth shall deepen into joy,
 Earth's hopes grow half divine,
 When Jesus visits us, to make
 Life's water glow as wine.

The social talk, the evening fire,
 The homely household shrine,
 Grow bright with angel-visits when
 The Lord pours out the wine.

15. Then shall thy light break forth
 as the morning. *Isaiah lviii. 8.*

Light breaks in! Light breaks in! Hallelujah!
Last words of BLUMHARDT of Basle.

Christian, see! the orient morning
 Breaks along the heathen sky:
 Lo! the expected day is dawning,—
 Glorious day-spring from on high.
 Hallelujah!
 Hail the day-spring from on high!

16. And this is the confidence that
 we have in him, that, if we ask
 any thing according to his will,
 he heareth us. *1 John v. 14.*

In a full prayer for full deliverance there is hope.

ADAM.

Oh, move us—thou hast power to move—
 One in the One Beloved to be;
 Teach us the heights and depths of love;
 Give thine,—that we may love like thee.

E. B. BROWNING.

17. Comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. 1 *Thess.* v. 14.

Silently, affliction is in the shadows of life; without noise is death pacing the chambers of the merry world; without any visible consternation, humanity is swept from the surface of the earth. Why should we then wrangle? Why should not our solemn duties and our hastening end render us so united that personal contention would be impossible in a general sympathy quickened by the breath of forbearing and pitying charity?

GILES.

Patiently enduring, ever
 Let thy spirit be
 Bound, by links that cannot sever,
 To humanity.
 Fear not, shrink not, though the burden
 Heavy to thee prove:
 God shall fill thy mouth with gladness
 And thy heart with love.

BAILEY.

18. My son, forget not my law. . . . Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart.

Prov. iii. 1, 3.

Children should be inured as early as possible to acts of charity and mercy. Constantine, as soon as his son could write, employed his hand in signing pardons, and delighted in conveying through *his* mouth all the favours that he granted. HORNE.

Scorn not the slightest word or deed,
Nor deem it void of power:
There's fruit in each wind-wafted seed
That waits its natal hour.

A whisper'd word may touch the heart
And call it back to life,
A look of love bid sin depart
And still unholy strife.

19. Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this,

that this woman hath done,
be told for a memorial of her.

Matt. xxvi. 13.

Great was her faith and love; and Christ would have the memory of the action preserved for our sakes and to show how well pleased he is with the open expression of our love to him. Thou wilt not grudge to be at some cost for him, if thou hast ability. Thy heart may be this box of precious ointment, if thou hast no more. ADAM.

She loved her Saviour, and to him
Her costliest present brought:
To crown his head, or grace his name,
No gift too rare she thought.
So let the Saviour be adored,
And not the poor despised,
Give to the hungry from your hoard,
But all,—give all, to Christ.

20. Verily, verily, I say unto you,
Whatsoever ye shall ask the
Father in my name, he will
give it you. *John xvi. 23.*

If our prayers be made in this name, God opens the windows of heaven and rains down benediction.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

How high thou art! Our songs can own
 No music thou couldst stoop to hear;
 But still the Son's expiring groan
 Is vocal in the Father's ear.

MRS. BROWNING.

21. The desire of our soul is to thy
 name, and to the remembrance
 of thee. *Isaiah xxvi. 8.*

One glance of God, a touch of his love, will free
 and enlarge the heart, so that it can deny all, and
 part with all, and make an entire renouncing of all,
 to follow *him*. LEIGHTON.

Let every step, let every thought,
 Sweet memories bear of thee!
 And hear the soul thy love hath bought,—
 Whose every cry shall be,
 "Nearer to thee!" "Nearer to thee!"

22. And many bodies of the saints
 which slept arose, and came out
 of the graves after his resur-
 rection, and went into the
 holy city, and appeared unto
 many. *Matt. xxvii. 52, 53.*

It is recorded, to confirm our hopes, how early his power was displayed in forcing the grave to release its chained captives. What better earnest can we have that the strength of death is broken? From what he has done, to what he is able to do, the consequence is clear.

BATES.

Then they who live shall changed be,
 And they who sleep shall wake,
 The graves shall yield their ancient charge,
 While earth's foundations shake.

23. We are made a spectacle unto
 the world, and to angels, and
 to men.

1 *Cor.* iv. 9.

I can do nothing without a million of witnesses: the conscience is as a thousand witnesses; and God is as a thousand consciences: I will therefore so deal with men as knowing that God sees me, and so with God as if the world saw me; so with myself and both of them as knowing that my conscience seeth me; and so with them all as knowing that I am overlooked by my accuser, by my judge.

HALL.

Beneath the star-lit arch,
 Along the hallow'd ground,
 I see cherubic armies march,
 A camp of fire around.

All that I am, have been,
 All that I yet may be,
 He sees as he hath ever seen
 And shall forever see.

MONTGOMERY.

24. Ask for the old paths, where is
 the good way, and walk there-
 in, and ye shall find rest for
 your souls. *Jer. vi. 16.*

It is an old path. It is a path worn by the feet
 of many pilgrims, and a path in which the footsteps
 are all one way. The treasury of Christ's mercies
 has never been found empty. The well of living
 waters has never proved dry. RYLE.

This pilgrim-path by thee was trod,
 Jesus! my King! by thee!
 Traced by thy feet, thy tears, thy blood,
 In love, in death, for me!—
 Oh, bring my soul nearer to thee!

25. Is not my word like as a fire?
 saith the Lord; and like a
 hammer that breaketh the
 rock in pieces? *Jer. xxiii. 29.*

Scripture truths, when they do not enrich the memory, yet may purify the heart. . . . Lightning, than which nothing sooner vanisheth away, yet often breaks and melts the hardest and most firm bodies in its sudden passage. Such is the irresistible force of the word. The Spirit often darts it through us. It seems but like a flash and gone; and yet it may break and melt down our hard hearts before it, when it leaves no impression at all upon our memories.

BISHOP HOPKINS.

Come, O thou all-victorious Lord,
Thy power to us make known;
Strike with the hammer of thy word
And break these hearts of stone.

CHARLES WESLEY.

26. In the night his song shall be
with me, and my prayer unto
the God of my life.

Psalm xlii. 8.

There are souls like the "alabaster vase of ointment, very precious," which shed no perfume of devotion, because a great sorrow has never broken them. Could Scott have been given back to the world again after the heavy discipline of life had passed over him, he would have spoken otherwise

of many things. What he vainly struggled to say to Lockhart on his death-bed would have been a new revelation of his soul to the world, could he have lived to unfold it in literature. But so it is: when we have learned to live, life's purpose is answered, and we die.

Sweetest by night, like blessed truths
That grace the sacred page,
But freeliest pour their kindest store
O'er sickness, grief and age.

Seen most by ruins, like the love
That gave itself for all,
But closest clings to guiltiest things,
Like Magdalen or Saul.

27. Until the day break, and the
shadows flee away, I will get
me to the mountain of myrrh,
and to the hill of frankincense.

Cant. iv. 6.

I am grown exceeding uneasy in writing and speaking,—yea, almost in thinking,—when I reflect how cloudy our clearest thoughts are. But I think again, what other can we do, till the day break and

the shadows flee away? As one that lieth awake in the night must be thinking, and one thought that will likely oftenest return, when by all other thoughts he finds little relief, is, When will it be day?
LEIGHTON.

So shall it be at last, in that bright morning
When the soul waketh and life's shadows flee:
Oh, in that hour, fairer than daylight dawning,
Shall rise the glorious thought,—I am with thee!

28. Now my days are swifter than
a post: they flee away, they
see no good. They are passed
away as the swift ships.

Job ix. 25, 26.

We are dying, we are changing, every hour; and yet we live as if we were immortal. The very time which it takes to pen these lines must be retrenched from my days. We often write to one another; our letters traverse the seas, and as the ship scuds along so life flies: a moment of it passes with every wave.

ST. JEROME.

Swift as the arrow cuts its way
Through the soft, yielding air,
Or as the sun's more subtle ray,
Or lightning's sudden glare.

Or as an eagle to the prey,
 Or shuttle through the loom,
 So haste our fleeting lives away ;
 So pass we to the tomb.

29. [I will] make them joyful in my
 house of prayer. *Isaiah lvi. 7.*

How can we come to the house of prayer, and not be moved with the very glory of the place itself, so to frame our affections praying as doth best beseem them whose suits the Almighty doth there sit to hear and his angels attend to further?

HOOVER.

And dear to me the winged hour
 Spent in thy hallow'd courts, O Lord,—
 To feel devotion's soothing power,
 And catch the manna of thy word.

CUNNINGHAM.

30. The night is far spent, the day
 is at hand: let us therefore
 cast off the works of darkness,
 and let us put on the armour
 of light. *Rom. xiii. 12.*

These words are as an alarm or morning watch-bell of singular use, not only awaking a Christian to his day's work, but withal reminding him what it is.

LEIGHTON.

Hark, how the watchmen cry!
Attend the trumpet's sound;
Stand to your arms! the foe is nigh,
The powers of hell surround.

C. WESLEY.

P

DECEMBER.

1. I AM the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. *John xi. 25.*

What a voice is this, breaking over a world which for six thousand years has been a dormitory of sin and death!

Morning breaks upon the tomb;
Jesus scatters all its gloom;
Day of triumph through the skies,—
See the glorious Saviour rise!

COLLYER.

2. And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.

Isaiah xxv. 6.

As those that have tasted of some delicate dish find other plain dishes but unpleasant, so it fareth with those which have once tasted of heavenly things: they cannot but contemn the best worldly pleasures. As, therefore, some dainty guest, knowing there is so pleasant fare to come, I will reserve my appetite for it, and not suffer myself to be cloyed with the coarse diet of the world. HALL.

Eternal Wisdom hath prepared
A soul-reviving feast,
And bid your longing appetites
The rich provision taste.

WATTS.

3. When a few years are come, then
I shall go the way whence I
shall not return. *Job xvi. 22.*

The day of grace is slipping away; the day of judgment is drawing near; the thread of life is winding up. A few more short years, and every soul of us will have gone to his own place:—we shall each of us be in heaven or hell. RYLE.

My Father's house on high!
Home of my soul! how near
At times, to faith's foreseeing eye,
Thy golden gates appear!

MONTGOMERY.

4. Those that walk in pride he is able to abase. *Dan. iv. 37.*

After all, take some quiet, sober moment of life and add together the two ideas of pride and of man. Behold him, a creature of a span high, stalking through infinite space in all the grandeur of littleness. Perched on a little speck of the universe, every wind of heaven strikes into his blood the coldness of death; his soul fleets from his body like melody from the string; day and night, as dust on the wheel, he is rolled along the heavens, through a labyrinth of worlds, and all the systems and creations of God are flaming above and beneath.

Lord, forever at thy side

Let my place and portion be :

Strip me of the robe of pride ;

Clothe me with humility.

MONTGOMERY.

5. Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them : otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. *Matt. vi. 1.*

In no wise does religion so commend herself as in the embodied charity which glides noiselessly upon her errands with the softness of an angel's foot.

Make channels for the streams of love,
Where they may broadly run,
And love has overflowing streams
To fill them every one.

For we must share, if we would keep,
That blessing from above :
Ceasing to give, we cease to have :
Such is the law of love.

FRENCH.

6. What is a man profited if he
shall gain the whole world
and lose his own soul?

Matthew xvi. 26.

To lose a soul which is designed to be an immense sea of pleasure, even in its natural capacities, is to lose all that whereby a man can possibly be, or be supposed, happy.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Are there on earth (let me not call them men)
Who lodge a soul immortal in their breasts,
Unconscious as the mountain of its ore,

Or rock of its inestimable gem?
 When rocks shall melt and mountains vanish, these
 Shall know their treasure,—treasure *then* no more.

YOUNG.

7. Though the Lord be high, yet
 hath he respect unto the
 lowly. *Psalm cxxxviii. 6.*

Some flowers and herbs, that grow very low, are
 of a very fragrant smell and healthful use.

LEIGHTON.

The bird that soars on highest wing
 Builds on the ground her lowly nest;
 And she that does most sweetly sing
 Sings in the shade when all things rest:
 In lark and nightingale we see
 What honour hath humility.

8. Lord, to whom shall we go? thou
 hast the words of eternal life.

John vi. 68.

Religion is natural and necessary to the heart of
 man. Where else can that being seek for succour
 who is in death in the midst of life? What other
 hope in the perils of land or water, on the bed of

sickness, in the hour of death, in the day of judgment?

Ah! what avails my strife,
 My wanderings to and fro?
 Thou hast the words of endless life:
 Ah, whither should I go?

C. WESLEY.

9. It is appointed unto men once to die.

Heb. ix. 27.

Some walk on the golden sands, others in the mire; but the same uncontrollable necessity of dying involves all. And whatever the way be, whether pleasant or doleful, yet every one passes with equal steps, measured by the same invariable spaces of hours and days, and arrives at the same common end of life.

BATES.

Into the silent land!

Ah! who shall lead us thither?
 Clouds in the evening sky more darkly gather,
 And shatter'd wrecks lie thicker on the strand;
 Who leads us with a gentle hand,
 Whither, oh, whither,
 Into the silent land?

LONGFELLOW.

10. Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens.

Psaln xxxvi. 5.

Let us take heed; for mercy is like a rainbow, which God set in the clouds to remember mankind: it shines here as long as it is not hindered; but we must never look for it after it is night; and it shines not in the other world. If we refuse mercy here, we shall have justice to eternity.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Yea, Truth and Justice then
 Will down return to men,
 Orb'd in a rainbow; and, like glories wearing,
 Mercy will sit between,
 Throned in celestial sheen,
 With radiant feet the tissued clouds down steering;
 And heaven, as at some festival,
 Will open wide the gates of her high palace-hall.

MILTON.

11. The tree is known by his fruit.

Matt. xii. 33.

In prayer the seeds of action are sown; but, let us remember, we shall be judged by the fruit.

Dear Comforter! Eternal Love!
 If thou wilt stay with me,
 Of lowly thoughts and simple ways
 I'll build a house for thee.

Who made this beating heart of mine
 But thou, my heavenly Guest?
 Let no one have it, then, but thee,
 And let it be thy rest.

LYRA CATHOLICA.

12. We brought nothing into this
 world, and it is certain we
 can carry nothing out.

1 *Tim.* vi. 7.

As it is with those that are invited to feast in some noble family,—the furniture is rich, the entertainment splendid and magnificent, but when they depart they cannot, of all that pomp and bravery, carry any thing away with them,—so is it here. The world is God's great house, richly furnished, and we well entertained in it; we have all things liberally afforded us for our use, but nothing of all is our's. And therefore God hath set that grim porter, Death, at his gate, to see that, as we brought nothing into it, so we carry nothing out of it.

HOPKINS.

The glories of our birth and state
 Are shadows,—not substantial things:
 There is no armour against fate;
 Death lays his icy hand on kings.

SHIRLEY.

13. Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.

Rom. xii. 11.

Religion is intended for the world. The world has need of it. Your weary, weary, clanking machinery,—ever going, never resting,—the hard edges of that huge, complex, money-making machine are sawing into your very flesh and bones. If the name and Spirit of Christ were poured upon your business, your business would not rack you so sore nor waste you so soon.

ARNOLD.

Though careful, without care I am,
 Nor feel my happy toil;
 Preserved in peace by Jesus' name,
 Supported by his smile,
 Rejoicing thus my faith to show,
 His service my reward,
 While every work I do below,
 I do it to the Lord.

CHARLES WESLEY.

14. Who mind earthly things.

Philippians iii. 19.

When the Duke d'Alva was asked whether he observed a comet that had lately appeared, "No," said he: "I have so much to do on earth that I can-

not spare time to mind heaven :” so it is with many : they are overwhelmed with worldly employments, and have no spare time to think of heaven.

HOPKINS.

How vain are all things here below !

How false, and yet how fair !

Each pleasure hath its poison too,

And every sweet its snare.

WATTS.

15. Love ye your enemies.

Luke vi. 35.

Michael de Molinos was tried, condemned, and shut up in the dungeons of the Inquisition, where, after the expiration of twelve years, he closed his life. But he uttered no cry, made no resistance, poured forth no denunciations. It is affecting to see with what calmness and entire faith in God he entered that dungeon-door from which he knew that there was no return. Taking by the hand the friar who attended him, and who was one of his opposers, he merely said, “Farewell. At the day of judgment we shall see each other again ; and then it will appear on which side truth is,—whether on your’s, or on mine.”

UPHAM.

Forgive thy foes ;—nor that alone :
 Their evil deeds with good repay ;
 Fill those with joy who leave thee none,
 And kiss the hand upraised to slay.

So does the fragrant sandal bow
 In meek forgiveness to its doom,
 And o'er the axe at every blow
 Shed in abundance rich perfume.

HERBERT KNOWLES.

16. In the world ye shall have tribu-
 lation : but be of good cheer ;
 I have overcome the world.

John xvi. 33.

Prosperity is the blessing of the Old Testament :
 adversity is the blessing of the New,—which carrieth
 the greater benediction and the clearer revelation
 of God's favour.

BACON.

Abide with me ! Fast falls the eventide,
 The darkness deepens. Lord, with me abide !
 When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
 Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me !

LYTE.

17. He that is of a merry heart
 hath a continual feast.

Prov. xv. 15.

All the trouble that befalls the children of God is but as the rattling of hail upon the tiles of the house to a man who is sitting within a warm room at a rich banquet; and such is a good conscience,—a feast, yea, a continual feast. LEIGHTON.

Thy happy ones a strain begin :
 Dost thou not, Lord, glad souls possess ?
 Thy cheerful Spirit dwells within :
 We feel thee in our joyfulness.

Our mirth is not afraid of thee ;
 Our life rejoices to be bright ;
 We would not from our gladness flee,
 But give full welcome to delight.

J. H. GILL.

18. And whither I go ye know, and
 the way ye know. *John* xiv. 4.

We are content to endure slight temporary inconveniences that we may secure great and durable benefits. We make toilsome journeys to visit beloved relations or friends. We gladly cross stormy seas, that we may see magnificent or historical structures, or renowned cities, or beautiful landscapes, or celebrated statues and paintings. Often shorter and easier is the passage to heaven, "the city that hath foundations." OLIN.

O happy harbour of God's saints!
 O sweet and pleasant soil!
 In thee no sorrow can be found,
 Nor grief, nor care, nor toil.

Thy walls are made of precious stone,
 Thy bulwarks diamond-square,
 Thy gates are all of orient pearl:—
 Oh God! if I were there!

QUARLES.

19. I said of laughter, It is mad:
 and of mirth, What doeth it?

Eccles. ii. 2.

If our condition were really happy, there would
 be no need to divert us from thinking of it.

PASCAL.

Their fancied joys, how fast they flee!
 Just like a dream when man awakes:
 Their songs of softest harmony
 Are but a prelude to their plagues.

WATTS.

20. Can I bring him back again? I
 shall go to him, but he shall not
 return to me. 2 *Samuel* xii. 23.

“There is healing in the bitter cup.”—God takes from us those we love as hostages for our faith; and to those who look to a reunion in a better world, where there shall be no separation, and no mutability except that which results from perpetual progressiveness, the evening becomes more delightful than the morning, and the sunset offers brighter and lovelier visions than those which we build up in the morning clouds and which disappear before the strength of the day.

SOUTHEY.

They who die in Christ are blest;
 Our's, then, be no thought of grieving:
 Sweetly with their God they rest,
 All their toils and troubles leaving.
 So be our's the faith that saveth,
 Hope that every trial braveth,
 Love that to the end endureth
 And, through Christ, the crown secureth.

21. When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself and walkedst whither thou wouldest; but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee,

and carry thee whither thou
wouldest not. *John xxi. 18.*

Such is the history of the Christian life, not in Peter's case only: but this is the very course and order of it in almost all of God's servants: it is begun in action, it is perfected in suffering. In the last, lessons are learned which the first could never teach. TRENCH.

I hoped that with the brave and strong
My portion'd task might be,—
To toil amid the busy throng,
With purpose pure and high.
But God has fix'd another part,
And he has fix'd it well:
I said so, with my bleeding heart,
When first the anguish fell.

ANNE BRONTÉ.

22. The glory of Lebanon shall be
given unto it, the excellency
of Carmel and Sharon; they
shall see the glory of the Lord
and the excellency of our God.
Isaiah xxxv. 2.

The beauty of Carmel is celebrated in Scripture; and even in this day of desolation it sustains its ancient praise. The enlivening atmosphere, the sides covered with perpetual verdure, the brow dark with woods, and the wide prospects around, combine to form a scene which he who has once beheld forgets no more.

KITTO.

Thou, who didst lighten Zion's hill,
 On Carmel who didst shine,
 Our deserts let thy glory fill,
 Thy excellence divine.

Like Lebanon, in towering pride
 May all our forests smile;
 And may our borders blossom wide,
 Like Sharon's fruitful soil.

23. Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the vail.

Heb. vi. 19.

This is the anchor fixed within the vail, which keeps the soul firm against all the tossings on these swelling seas and the winds and tempests that arise upon them. The firmest thing in this inferior world is a believing soul.

LEIGHTON.

Now I have found the ground wherein
 Sure my soul's anchor may remain,—
 The wounds of Jesus for my sin,
 Before the world's foundation slain;
 Whose mercy shall unshaken stay
 When earth and heaven are fled away.

JOHN WESLEY.

24. I trust to see you in my journey,
 and to be brought on my way
 thitherward by you, if first I
 be somewhat filled with your
 company. *Rom. xv. 24.*

Love is the law of that kingdom, and perfectly obeyed there. Now, how charming is the conversation of one that is wise and holy, especially if the sweetness of affability be in his temper! How pleasantly does time slide away in the company of our beloved friends! We are not sensible of its flight. But what dear satisfaction is it to be united to that chosen, consecrated society above, who love one another as themselves! Though the angels and saints have different degrees of glory, yet every one is perfectly happy and pleased. BATES.

May He, by whose kind care we meet,
 Send his good Spirit from above,

Make our communications sweet
 And cause our hearts to burn with love.

Forgotten be each worldly theme
 When Christians meet together thus:
 We only wish to speak of Him
 Who lived and died and reign'd for us.

NEWTON.

25. Ye shall have a song, as in the
 night when a holy solemnity
 is kept. *Isaiah xxx. 29.*

How sweetly doth this music sound in this dead
 season! In the day-time it would not, it could not,
 so much affect the ear. All harmonious sounds are
 advanced by a silent darkness. Thus it is with the
 glad tidings of salvation. The gospel never sounds
 so sweet as in the night of persecution or of and
 own private affliction. HALL.

When Jordan hush'd his waters still
 And silence slept on Zion's hill,
 When Bethlehem's shepherds through the night
 Watch'd o'er their flocks by starry light,

Hark! from the midnight hills around
 A voice of more than mortal sound
 In distant hallelujahs stole,
 Wild murmuring, o'er the raptured soul.

On wheels of light, on wings of flame,
 The glorious hosts of Zion came;
 High heaven with songs of triumph rung
 While thus they struck their harps and sung.

CAMPBELL.

26. For we are saved by hope.

Rom. viii. 24.

Hope is a beautiful meteor; but nevertheless this meteor, like the rainbow, is not only lovely because of its seven rich and radiant stripes: it is the memorial of a covenant between man and his Maker, telling us that we were born for immortality, destined, unless we sepulchre our greatness, to the highest honour and noblest happiness. Hope proves man deathless. It is the struggle of the soul breaking loose from what is perishable and attesting her eternity.

MELVILLE.

The rainbow passes with the storm,
 And hope with sorrow's fading form.

MONTGOMERY.

27. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building

of God, a house not made
with hands, eternal in the
heavens. 2 Cor. v. 1.

Mine is taking down piece by piece. By-and-by I shall find a chink large enough to get out of; like a bird confined in a cage and fluttering about to extricate itself in vain, till at last, the door being open, the happy prisoner wings its flight towards heaven.

M. J. GRAHAME.

We know, by faith we know,
If this frail house of clay,
This tabernacle, sink below
In ruinous decay,
We have a house above,
Not made with mortal hands;
And firm as our Redeemer's love
That heavenly fabric stands.

CHARLES WESLEY.

28. I will say of the Lord, he is my-
refuge and my fortress: my
God; in him will I trust.

Ps. xci. 2.

It is no news to you that I am a prisoner and always kept under lock and key. I am afflicted,

although I have firm trust and rest in God. Oh, what a happiness it is to be thoroughly resigned to Providence!—a resignation which constitutes the true repose of life.

MADAME GUYON.

God is their rock, their fortress of defence,
 In time of trouble a defence most holy :
 For them the wrath of man is impotence,
 His pride a bubble, and his wisdom folly.
 That peace have they—unspeakable, intense—
 Which passeth understanding ! Melancholy
 Life's gauds to them : the unseen they explore :
 Rooted in heaven, to live is—to adore !

CHARLES LLOYD.

29. It is good that a man should
 both hope and quietly wait
 for the salvation of the Lord.

Lam. iii. 26.

Is it not good that I hope and wait, when each moment may add a jewel to the crown, a plume to the wing, a city to the sceptre? Is it not good when each second effort may lift me a step higher in the scale of triumph and majesty?

MELVILLE.

Here, in thine own appointed ways,
I wait to learn thy will;
Silent, I stand before thy face,
And hear thee say, Be still!

CHARLES WESLEY.

30. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 *Thess.* iv. 16, 17.

One grave shall cleave in twain and its buried tenantry shall rise and meet the Lord, and the other grave, that looks equally green beside it, shall fail to be pierced by that sound or its dead dust to be moved. Nor less startling will be the scenes among the living: some families shall be met together

speaking of the things of this world; in an instant, and without warning, one shall hear a sound significant to his heart of glory, and rise as upon the lightning's wing and with its splendour, and leave without a farewell the rest, that know not Christ and remain astonished behind. CUMMING.

Great God! what do I see and hear?

The end of things created:

The Judge of mankind doth appear,

On clouds of glory seated;

The trumpet sounds; the graves restore

The dead which they contain'd before.

Prepare, my soul, to meet him!

The dead in Christ shall first arise

At the last trumpet's sounding,

Caught up to meet him in the skies,

With joy their Lord surrounding:

No gloomy fears their souls dismay:

His presence sheds eternal day

On those prepared to meet him.

LUTHER.

31. Perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Cor. vii. 1.

Holiness presents that side of us which joins on upon eternity, opens into heaven and makes us

kindred to God. It is not to be had without an aim, a purpose, a steady looking and striving to that end. It must be treated like an interest, a pursuit, a profession. It is the great livelihood of your heart. It is the vocation of your soul. It is the practical handicraft of your inner man. It must be begun, followed and never ended. Resolve, deliberation, continuous effort, are its motive powers. All your members are its flexile instruments. The Bible is its text-book. Morning, evening, noon, all the circling hours, are its periods of exercise. Prayer is its rehearsal. God answering is its teacher. Christ is its pattern.

HUNTINGTON.

This, this is our high calling's prize :

Thine image in thy Son I claim,
And still to higher glories rise,
Till, all transform'd, I know thy name,
And glide to all my heaven above,—
My highest heaven, in Jesus' love.

CHARLES WESLEY.

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